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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

My elderly father in law Jim had to leave AT&T service as they switched him off a landline to Uverse guaranteeing he would have the same service. Jim is very careful with his money, even tight - he turns the power off to his computer when not in use. Without realizing it AT&T put him in danger as he had no phone service, and people couldn't call him to tell him. He lives alone. And when we explained the error AT&T had made they were now unable to switch him back to a landline with a DSL modem even though he had all the equipment working until AT&T switched.

We resolved it by going to a small local phone and internet business lmi.net who supply a landline and modem for less than AT&T had been charging. This was a couple years ago, and it has worked perfectly since then. And now lmi.net is working on rolling out phibre (fiber?) with potential gigabit capacity at similar pricing to the DSL and landline option. I was considering signing up when it becomes available to my house in the next year.

As I understand lmi.net will be forced out of business if the big internet companies proceed to take over access to the internet.

And to be clear - when we had our issues with AT&T staff - the people we talked to were wonderful, understood the issues, thought they could fix it, made promises, and none of the promises were kept. I strongly suspect it was blocked by senior management issues.

Short version - I strongly support protecting smaller operators on the internet. It should be like a public utility in some respects as it supplies essential services that should not be the target of profiteering.

Stephen Williams