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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**

To the Commissioners, Federal Communications Commission:

My family and I currently enjoy uncapped, symmetric one gigabyte fiber connectivity to the Internet. Beginning with one of the earliest deployments of DSL in the San Francisco Bay Area, my service went from dial-up 14Kb to 3 Mb service over copper wires supplied by Pacific Bell, later acquired by AT&T. I left AT&T for service with a small independent ISP, Sonic.Net, that relied on central office services supplied by Pac Bell (and later AT&T). Later, I upgraded from DSL to Sonic's "fiber to the node" service (FTTN), and a download speed of what, at the time, seemed a very speedy 24MB download and 1.5 MB upload speed. Although Sonic relied on AT&T's infrastructure, its customer service, reliability, and commitment to consumer privacy placed it well apart from AT&T.

Earlier this summer we replaced Sonic's FTTN service with its fiber to the premises offering. The increased speed has allowed us to remove our cable service and replace it with various streaming services on the Internet. My work, which involves connecting to remote servers in North Carolina from my home in California, has benefited from the new speed. All of this was due, in part, to Sonic pursuing a planned expansion, building new services to an expanding user community, which relies upon reasonable access to the infrastructure of large telecommunications providers like AT&T, who under the 1996 Telecommunications Act, were obligated to provide such access.

The current attempt by AT&T and USTelecom to remove access to critical unbundled network elements will eliminate competition, reduce consumer choice, and set back the deployment of fiber connectivity to more households. I urge you to reject this move. (And I should mention that with Sonic, we enjoy toll free calling throughout the US and much of Europe and Latin America).
Thank you.

Robert Fitzgerald