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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,

I grew up during the dawn of the Internet in a small, rural town outside of Salem, Oregon. My fastest connection speed was about 24 kbps on a good day. In 2000, I left for college and experienced, for the first time, what we then thought was blazing fast broadband in the college dorms.

I moved to San Francisco in 2005, and never even considered the possibility that a city synonymous with technology and the Internet could have so few broadband options, with most of them costing too much for unreliable service. I wrong. I (and everyone I knew) was stuck with AT&T's horrible DSL service or Comcast's intermittent cable product for the better part of a decade.

In 2016, I switched to a local provider, Sonic, who was offering fiberoptic broadband, a network they built from scratch. They claimed to have a faster, more reliable network that was half the price of DSL (AT&T) or cable (Comcast). It seemed a little too good to be true, but when my Internet/cable TV bill hit \$205/month, I decided to take a leap of faith based on several friends' recommendations and the fact that I didn't need the television portion of the service anymore.

I haven't looked back. It still blows me away that a small, local company could compete with the likes of Comcast and AT&T. Only in American can an underdog punch their way into the race with the big dogs.

Please, do not side with giant telecoms on this one. Regulations that favor the big guys have no place in America. If anything, stick with the status quo, or create economic value by lowering the barriers to enter for the little guys.

Paul Thompson