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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 was an AT&T DSL customer for many years and experienced steadily declining connectivity speeds while the cost of my plan continued to rise. Rarely did AT&T speed (using SpeedTest) match the promised upload and download speeds. Whenever I complained, AT&T always pressured me to move up to a higher level. Even at the next to highest residential level, I had slow internet response and numerous problems streaming to my Apple and Roku appliances (when they were the only internet devices in use).

I switched to Sonic DSL that used the same AT&T infrastructure and immediately doubled my speed. In addition, I was able to bundle my landline at the same cost, saving me \$30+ per month for a line I used only for DSL. I have since switched to Sonic fiber which not only increased my speed but comes at a slightly lower rate.

As a researcher and writer who works at home, reliable and relatively fast internet service is imperative and, given the reduced revenue most bread and butter writers are pulling in these days, I can't afford to pay a high, business-level rate for the single connection I use during the day. To be clear, I'm not involved with massive uploads and downloads. I don't require gaming speeds. My most intensive usage is a few hours each night for streaming. That level of usage should be affordable.

After my experience with AT&T, it is clear that the only way to assure fair prices for the services delivered is through healthy competition. I tried other providers but all of them were edged out of the market by AT&T. The FCC should be encouraging healthy ecosystem of providers by ensuring a level playing field for all competitors. To allow AT&T to hold parts of the network infrastructure hostage in order to manipulate prices in their favor is monopolistic. They did it with telecommunications in the 70s and 80s and they will do it again now unless you do the right thing and encourage competition.

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