

Paula Morgan
2998 Shasta Road
Berkeley CA 94708

Aug 30th 2018

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 am frightened by the proposal to dismantle the 1996 Telecommunications Act that allows competitive carriers to rent bare copper lines from incumbent carriers, and to use spare fiber between cities. These critical unbundled network elements (UNEs) enable competitive to deploy equipment and provide services, and to backhaul gigabit fiber service, AND serve customers.

If YOU eliminate the right of independent carriers to serve customers on copper lines, and to use fiber to connect networks, that would impair their ability to deploy new gigabit fiber service.

The option to support independent providers is crucial. You only need to look at what big carriers, e.g. Verizon did to the California Fire departments to slow their communication in a recent emergencies to know that the big carriers have NO concern for safety or service.

My local internet provider ensures greater security and does not push unwanted and unnecessary ads. The big companies know they have a monopoly, and exploit it.

I have to maintain a landline, and AT&T will not longer support this. When I chose a local landline provider, LMI.net, my costs were cut significantly.

We live in an era where broadband internet access is a necessity, for medical care information, educational activities, safety notifications, and everything in everyday communication. Affordable, reliable access is mandatory to function on a daily basis.

Please ensure the broadband internet remains available to all, and not just to those who are can pay a few big companies exorbitant amounts of money every month with mandatory long term contracts for basic (and often poor) internet access.

Thank you.

Paula Morgan

