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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,

FCC data shows the US broadband competition at higher speeds is virtually nonexistent, something that seems no better as, in my area, like AT&T and Verizon refuse to upgrade phone or DSL lines. In my area cable operators like Comcast and Charter seem to have a greater broadband monopoly.

I support a local, small ISP and feel that the rules remain essential toward helping them build their network, focused on the unique local/regional needs. At my home and place of business, there is no broadband service at all, and both the telecoms and cable operators apparently have no plan to upgrade existing copper lines. For years, our area had only dial-up internet access, until mobile phone hotspots became an option. However current bandwidth averages less than 2Mbs.

Those of us who live and work in rural areas still feel the 'gap', that the federal government has promised to address for almost 20 years now. We support efforts to ensure broadband competition.

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