

Jessica Bernard
grandmadusty@gmail.com
Emeryville CA 94608

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 USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

First, I choose to use a local competitive provider because it charges fairly, with no mysterious tacked-on charges or rate hikes. Also, it operates on a small scale; when I call for assistance, someone four miles away picks up the phone (no voice robots) and sticks with me until the problem is resolved. If I need to follow up, I get reconnected to the same person. The company hires people locally. It is everything the massive major carriers are not. If its ability to provide services is curtailed, the community will be hurt, and only the giant carriers will not. Surely we should have the right to choose from divergent options and not be forced under the thumb of a behemoth!

It is hard to stay human in today's world, where small businesses die that had been operating for decades to serve our communities and add to the city's coffers. Please do not trample on our ability to maintain our communities in the ways we want.

Jessica Bernard