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Aug 31st 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 writing to you as a Gorge Networks customer and will remain as a loyal customer. I support local small business and have been a customer of Gorge Networks, Hood River, Oregon since its inception. America is built on small business startups. I totally believe that competition provides the best service and cost for us whether its shoes, gas, television, food or the internet. Without slamming the other providers in our area by name our television service provider (among other providers/telephone, etc.) is terrible. Getting a live person impossible. My costs to them keeps going up. Price hikes for people on fixed incomes becomes unbearable. The senior citizen population is increasing percentage-wise. If I had an alternative for those other services, I would take them. No price hikes which will in turn increase the cost of the internet. I now use the internet to do all my banking/paying bills, etc.---and, most importantly, a connection to my friends and family.

I live in a rural community, and local broadband providers are critical to millions of us.

I most definitely recommend that you not grant USTelecoms petition.

Sincerely,

Diane Barkhimer