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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 Chairman Pai,

I am appalled and yet not surprised to learn that major telecommunications companies, like Verizon, ATT, and Centurylink, have petitioned the FCC for forbearance from the COPPER line sharing requirements of the landmark 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Approving the petition would amount to cutting off service for over 3,000 independent and local ISPs across the county, which would leave customers, such as myself, with no choice but to contract Internet service from whichever telecom giant provides it in our area. For us, that company would be AT&T, and contracting for service from them is a disastrous proposition to consider.

AT&T has a history, with us, of delivering faulty equipment, failing to provide replacements in a reasonable amount of time, and failing to cancel service when requested. This resulted in extra charges on our account, for which we received no service whatsoever and which I had to devote additional time from my day to contest with AT&T's legendary customer service.

While I ultimately prevailed and received a refund for what amounted to fraudulent charges, I cannot ever get my time back. I lost an entire morning's work in dealing with the issue, and only because I have the luxury of being self-employed and working from home. My phone call to AT&T took over an hour to complete.

What of the people who do not have the benefit of choosing when to handle personal business?
What of the people who, during their work day, have only two fifteen-minute breaks and one thirty-minute lunch to themselves?

Suffice to say that I dread a future in which AT&T is the only choice I have for Internet service, but that is precisely what I can expect if the above petition is approved.

Competition is a cornerstone of our nation's economy. My family specifically chose to purchase our Internet service from a local provider because the larger companies who do business in our city have proven themselves unreliable and unsatisfactory.

I implore you and urge you in the strongest terms available to deny the petition for forbearance from the COPPER line sharing requirements of the landmark 1996 Telecommunications Act, which was enacted to ensure healthy, robust, and beneficial competition in the telecommunications industry.

Aaron SIKES