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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 cannot believe you would even consider limiting competition. Competition from various businesses is very much in favor of the consumer. We are better able to afford products when we have a choice of various options. Also as a result, price hikes are limited, minimized, or even non-existent with competition. I don't have to stick with Company A when there are also Company B, Company C, etc.

Having local options as opposed to national companies also serves several purposes. Our local economy is helped and bettered. Our consumer costs are often lower due to the local options. Not everyone is rich and costs don't matter to them. Many consumers may be faced with paying high rates to a lone company or drop their service and do without. With only one or two companies controlling the price and the industry and what they will provide forces the consumer to make difficult decisions that should not necessarily have to be made.

Due to various non-profit organizations I belong to in the local area, broadband is very important in keeping in close communication with each other and conduct operations in a timely manner. Local carriers of broadband is very important as well because they quite often are more aware of what groups deal with and what work the groups do, and deal with them in much better and faster ways, knowing the important difference these groups are trying to make.

From what I understand, Gorge Net, our local carrier, is allowed to use lines from another company, and that works well for those served by Gorge Net. They provide good service, and they care about their customers more than other companies have done so in the past. So please do not allow the end of the current situation, but allow competition to continue for the consumers' sake.

Thank you.

Ed Elliott