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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 FCC,

I choose to use a small, local ISP to boost competition in the area and help fund the buildout of municipal fiber. It is my opinion that municipal fiber provided by local ISPs is critical to the growth of tech business, especially remote work, in small and/or rural towns, such as the one in which I live.

Small ISPs and telephone companies are more likely to have a vested interest in improving the infrastructure of small towns, building out new technology, and maintaining infrastructure. For a small ISP, the local market is likely the only market. In contrast, larger ISPs correctly see no profit motive to build out or upgrade infrastructure in small towns or rural areas -- it just doesn't make financial sense for large ISPs, since much better return on investment can be obtained by providing premium services in heavily populated areas. Unfortunately, if small ISPs are priced out of competition, small town and rural users are likely to be left with fewer and/or poorer service options.

I am an engineer and software developer, working remotely from a small town in central Virginia. Reliable high-speed Internet is absolutely critical to my business. Without it, I'd be unable to live in this location. Our local ISP provides that need in a reliable, no-frills way, and is willing to work with me personally to provide for unique requirements my job places on my Internet connectivity. The two nationwide ISPs in the area were not willing to work with me in this way, and in fact one of them falsely advertises their services ("fiber" is actually bonded aDSL).

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