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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,

We are long time subscribers to Gorge.net, a provider in the mid-Columbia area of Oregon and Washington, based in Hood River, Oregon. We oppose the initiative to block independent providers. There is already too little competitive choice for internet access and telecom service, and if the petition is approved, independent local carriers across the country will lose access to critical network elements, and consumers could lose their choice of providers. We chose Gorge.net because it is local, provides excellent service and maintains local jobs. Small and local providers care about customers, not just making money. Please defend our choice. When we moved to Southern California, we kept our Gorge.net account because of the service and our loyalty to local business.

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