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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 USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am a retired person using a local ISP for both landline telephone and DSL internet services. Their rates are currently reasonable -- far more so than the large telecoms like AT&T and Verizon. My ISP uses AT&T's copper-wire telephone lines to provide its services, leasing them from AT&T as required by current regulations.

I am alarmed at the prospect that the FCC might bow to the wishes of the big telecoms and stop enforcing the line-sharing requirements that make my local ISP competitive and cost-effective for me and people like me, retired and on fixed incomes. I do not require, nor do I desire, any of the packages offered by the large telecoms, which typically bundle television or other "entertainment" with basic phone and internet service. I want my local ISP to stay in business, serving my local community.

I urge you to resist any efforts to change the rules regarding unbundled network elements (telephone lines), lest you destroy small, independent, local providers like the one I use, and make life harder for retirees and poor people who have found an advantage in patronizing these local small businesses.

Thomas Devine