

Chris Niggel
50 Avon Rd
Kensington CA 94707

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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,

Having local providers is critical to strong market competition. With the consolidation of telephone providers, we previously only had access to AT&T and Comcast for broadband internet service. These services were slow, unreliable, and expensive. For example, we had signed up for a 12Mbps DSL service, and even though our house was only 1/8th of a mile from the DSLAM, could only achieve 6Mbps. There was no credit for the reduction in service because their TOC's allow it. In addition, when it rained, service would disconnect entirely, and this issue took 3 months and multiple service calls to fix. As a previous employee of a major national ISP, I have firsthand experience how disconnected these organizations are from their customers.

Having a local provider supports the free market ideal, while giving us services run by our neighbors and people who are proud of their community. These services have higher availability, better performance, and better support.

We are an ex-AT&T customer and moved to Sonic.

Chris Niggel