

Donna Fiddes
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Sep 4th 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 Honorable FCC Members:

I am writing to object to US Telecoms petition to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, specifically Section 251(c)(3). In their petition, US Telecom claims that there is effectively no remaining UNE-based competition in that marketplace. This is patently false! I am an older woman with health problems subsisting on Social Security Disability with a small income from a part-time job. I can only make a limited amount of money every month under Social Security rules, and as you may know, the cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area (where I was born and raised) is very high.

I struggle every month to pay for the necessities, and when it comes to paying for what are now essential broadband services like internet access and a home telephone line, I am unable to afford services from fiber-optic providers such as Comcast/Xfinity. Even AT&T rates are too high. In addition, both of these providers require that you sign a minimum 2-year contract. Sonic is my local provider here in Santa Rosa, California. They provide me with UNE-based internet, wi-fi and telephone service at an affordable rate. I rely on Sonic services for banking, ordering prescriptions, accessing medical records, shopping, local and national news, making medical appointments, choosing medicare supplemental insurance plans and finding services, not to mention basic communication and entertainment. Perhaps this service is not state-of-the-art, but it works well for me at a rate that I can afford to pay. In addition, Sonic is working to install fiber lines in our town. With more competition in this area, I may someday be able to afford fiber-optic service. Less competition will not help people such as me, who depend on local providers to access these essential services.

Please remember senior citizens, disabled and low-income citizens who cannot afford the high-end providers and who rely on local UNE-based service providers such as Sonic, and vote NO on this petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Fiddes