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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,

Five years ago, I switched my internet and telephone service from AT&T to Sonic. I made the change because I would be paying less for a higher quality of service.

Because I'm retired and live on a limited income, I cannot afford price hikes that will increase the cost of internet and telephone services. I believe that is how the 1996 Telecommunications Act is supposed to work: enabling competitive market entry and encouraging new network deployment.

I'm outraged that AT&T and their trade association, US Telecom, have recently petitioned the FCC to take away access to critical unbundled network elements. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city fiber; the very technology that allowed small, local carriers to grow, expand fiber deployment, and compete.

Without access to this infrastructure, local carriers are at risk of losing access to a huge portion of their customer base, leading to potentially higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options for consumers. Competitive carriers need continued access to copper as a bridge to fiber so that they can help customers throughout the nation connect to the fastest, most affordable internet available.

I urge the FCC to support broadband competition and competitive deployment.

Marjory Keenan