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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 FCC,

We live in a remote rural area. We have one internet service provider (ISP), GorgeNet, a locally owned and operated company that we have been with since the late 1990s. Without its services, we would not have internet service. We operate a small home based business that is dependent upon internet connection. We get our information about local emergency events aka fires, weather related storms, and road closures via email and internet news. We do not have the alternative option of a cable company connection or satellite provider, because they can not offer their services where we live.

We have been solicited by large telcom companies to switch ISP by bundling services, however these promoters won't tell you they can't provide service to our area. If we did switch, they would disconnect our ISP and then not reconnect us, because they can't.

I know this because it happened to a neighbor who lives close by. They moved and had the ISP disconnected. When a new owner purchased the house years later, they couldn't get internet service since the capability wasn't upgraded in the Centurylink's telecom equipment.

Our local ISP has improved its equipment and utilized innovative technology to provide us with faster broadband connections. We began with a copper wire phone line dependent connection, then they provided DSL, and now we have upgraded to faster DSL without using a separate phone line which was eliminated and saved us money. They are responsive to our outages which were caused by the large telecom company's deteriorated infrastructure. They rent bare copper lines from Centurylink, but we can talk to GorgeNet without waiting on hold or being bounced around between customer service reps.

We need more competition Not less! There is a monopoly in this area held by Centurylink. During one of its frequent outages, Centurylink's technician told me they explained its equipment was junk, but Centurylink wouldn't spend the money for needed upgrades. Increasing fees won't change this, because the large telecom company allocates equipment upgrade budgets according to their own number of subscribers, not the overall need in the area.

Don't allow monopolies to cut us off from interaction with the economy, world, and critical local information by limiting local ISP's ability to use critical unbundled network elements (UNEs).

These UNEs enable GorgeNet to deploy equipment and provide DSL at higher speeds and better service than what Centurylink offers. Plus their prices are competitive, which make them even better than the monopoly ISP.

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