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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,

There is apparently an effort by some large businesses to eliminate parts of the 1996 Telecommunication Act, specifically all of or parts of Section 251(c)(3).

My ISP, Sonic, makes use of unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs). Sonic competes with the larger ISPs by providing good customer service .

I previously had AT&T, which at some points provided abysmal service, with my connection being pretty much useless for hours at a time, mostly in the evenings: it would vary between a complete failure to dropping 10 to 20 percent of the packets I was sending. They insisted that nothing was wrong. Finally, after months, they noticed that the box at the back of my house connecting my wiring to theirs was getting more than a tad rusty.

Then they decided they did not like the static IP address I had, which Pacbell (the phone company at the start of a string of acquisitions) had set up because that was the only thing they could figure out how to do and which I never bothered to change. There was an easily missed note in a phone bill indicating my costs would rise substantially if I did not pick a different plan immediately. To "pick a different plan", I dumped AT&T and switched to Sonic: I don't like being jerked around and having to make unexpected changes when I'm in the middle of something. Pacbell had its own quirks. They initially gave us some space on a web server, and then decided to discontinue it. Instead of telling me in an email, they configured their server to play some games with Javascript to warn people that the service would change. I was using HTML frames and it completely broke the web site I had. I found out when I was doing a demo for a friend in a coffee shop and didn't know at that point as to why the web pages no longer worked. It made me look like a clown who never bothered to test it first - I had but I never expected my ISP to pull the rug out from under me without any warning.

Given that sort of experience, I want to avoid AT&T, Comcast, and the other large carriers as much as possible. While my ISP may have to deal with AT&T et al. for intercity links, at least it is their staff and not me. It is not in the public interest to do anything that would tend to force the smaller ISPs out of business.

William Zaumen