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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,

If I had competition for my broadband service, I would welcome the choice and most likely a savings in the fee I pay each month for my phone and internet services. But there is little competition where I live (just 60 minutes drive north of San Francisco, CA). I'm stuck with buying my broadband service from AT&T or one other media behemoth. It's funny how these companies, through USTelecom, and are pushing for you to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act saying it won't effect residential customers like me. Well, it will. If you deregulate, I guarantee my prices will increase. To stop that from happening, you need to reject USTelecom and its members' petition. We need strong competition for broadband services and that means allowing local broadband service providers like Sonic.net to flourish. If you dismantle the 1996 Telecommunications Act like USTelecom wants you to, you will be hurting customers like me.

You know it and I know, competition is always good and needed. And one of the primary responsibilities of government and the FCC is to make sure competition flourishes.

Joe Halpin