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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,

As a residential consumer who uses UNE-based carrier (Sonic, Inc.), I object to the large carriers (AT&T, Verizon, and others) petition to have the Federal Communications forego enforcement of the Unbundled Access Rule in 47 U.S.C. 251(c)(3). I enjoy having fiber optic speed provided by a local telecommunications company that is responsive to my needs.

The FCC is doubtless aware of the history of large company abuses of residential consumers by anti-competitive practices. The federal government sued and forced the breakup of AT&T into many "baby Bells". With the advent of the cable industry, many jurisdictions entered into monopolistic agreements with cable companies which severely limited the residential customer to one source for TV and movies. Prices rose and rose. Fortunately, competition entered the market place with satellite TV and later internet TV and movies. As a residential consumer, I finally had a choice for internet, phone and TV. Cutting the cable was a no-brainer, but only because a small, local company put up fiber optic cables in my area. Sonic provides a valuable service for a reasonable cost.

The large carriers assertions that the competition will not be materially affected by forbearance under Section 251(c)(3) is simply not true. It would have a severely anti-competitive impact to allow the large carriers out from under the unbundled access rule of Section 251(c)(3). They will either stop providing the services to small carriers such as Sonic, or they will jack the price up so much that Sonic will have to pass the cost on to the residential customer. This will cause me, a residential consumer, to have to spend more money for services either directly from AT&T, or from Sonic, and will likely squeeze out the small service providers like Sonic, Inc.

I rely on Sonic for my telephone and internet service. They offer a reasonable cost and are a responsive company. I urge the FCC to continue to enforce Section 251(c)(3).

William Caruthers