

George Smith  
162 Byrant St  
Palo Alto CA 94301

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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,

I urge you to vote against the USTelcom petition that would modify the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

I switched to Sonic after finding that AT&T did not provide reliable internet & telephone service. I regularly suffered service outages with AT&T, and they were unwilling or unable to correct these problems, indicating that the problem was my distance from the central office, even though my location is a few blocks from the west coast internet nexus in Palo Alto. Since switching to Sonic, which uses the same physical lines, I have rarely had problems, and Sonic has been very responsive to the few issues that have occurred. As a technology consultant, I rely on my internet service, and suffer when this resource is not available.

We need to preserve competition to prevent the huge telecommunications companies from providing poor service simply because, in Lily Tomlin's words, "we're AT&T and we don't have to care."

George Smith