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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,

Competitive broadband is critical for affordable access to the Internet. Access to the Internet is increasingly being required for processes that used to be done via mail or be paperbased, and are also essential for those who have disabilities that limit their access to products and services outside the home. I switched from AT&T to Sonic.net and could not be happier.

Existing DSL infrastructure provides adequate speeds. I disconnected from the AT&T fiber network, as it was not only expensive, but unreliable for basic phone service. That is, with AT&T, I lost my POTS (plain old telephone service) and my line was dead at times for no apparent reason. In addition, the process for hooking up the fiber was filled with dishonesty. The AT&T technician did the set up wrong (later admitted by a different technician), but AT&T wanted to bill me for the service to "fix" their error.

Competitive broadband is important for typical middle class people. Keeping up with AT&Ts increasing prices and complicated bundles are confusing even for the able minded who are able to spend hours on the phone with AT&T not just to subscribe, but to fix overbilling errors. Once it literally took over 90 calls to settle the issue, which amounted to various AT&T units finger pointing at each other, including for selling me services that did not exist in my area. With the rising cost of living, average consumers are forced to choose from high prices and actually losing money by the need to devote working hours to getting a square deal with the larger telephone company offerings (and still paying way too much for services not used, but captured in bundled services).

Keep Internet access local, simple, and affordable! Keep competition alive!

Thank you!

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