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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**

To the FCC:

Please don't ban Sonic and other competitive Internet providers from our residential area. Internet service without such providers tends to be inadequate and over-priced. We have fiber optic cable from Sonic, and for the first time EVER (and I am 75 years old and have been using the Internet since its inception) I have fast, reliable Internet service. Before I was dependent on ATT and Comcast. ATT could not adequately serve our neighborhood. It's DSL lines did not reach far enough. I essentially had NO Internet service though I had to attempt to prepare college classes that required downloading Internet data sets at home. Comcast service was better, but still did not serve our home adequately. Since I've switched to Sonic fiber-optic cable, my Internet speed had increased tenfold over what I received from Comcast (from under 10 mbps to over 100.) Our costs have declined by nearly \$100 per month. I can at last quickly download and send data without my service being interrupted. It's a huge relief.

There is absolutely no reason to outlaw Internet providers such as Sonic which provide BETTER, CHEAPER residential service to customers than traditional, national companies do. We need those companies more than ever since the larger companies have failed us in terms of what they provide and the amount they charge us.

What on earth does the public gain from your proposed move to limit local companies from competing in the Internet and phone-providing business? Only a few national companies that want to squelch competition will win if you impose limitations. I understand that that is the mood of the time, but it needs to change. Without informed, connected local communities the nation suffers. Without educated students the nation suffers. Without solid Internet services small businesses cannot compete. The public cannot work competitively; we cannot act as informed citizens. Painful experience has taught us that we paid too much for inadequate service before Sonic came to our area.

Please DO NOT destroy the Internet capabilities and fine offerings of local, competitive providers. Our nation needs them not only for the sake of individuals who need to be served but also for the health of our country. The same argument can be made for allowing competitive phone service. Switching to Sonic for phone has saved us \$35 per month and gives us more "perq"s." What could

possibly be gained FOR THE PUBLIC by limiting competition for Internet and phone services? It is us, the taxpayers, not monopolistic corporations whose interests should be primary.

Thank you.

Susan Garfin