

# FOCUS MEDIA LAW GROUP

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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 Ms. Dortch:

I urge you to deny the petition by US Telecom. Granting this petition would have a negative impact on the availability of independent, competitive providers' new service activations and costs.

The regulations US Telecom seeks the FCC to forbear from enforcing are essential to maintaining alternatives to the giant telecommunications companies. If this petition is granted, costs of alternative providers will doubtless increase. What is worse is that the giant companies will likely reduce the availability to competitive smaller providers. Without access to the networks at regulated prices, the competition will substantially decrease and may disappear completely.

US Telecom states that it will increase investment in the networks if this petition is granted. The actual result of granting the petition will be to decrease competition, and to squeeze the independent operators out of the market.

It is important for the public to have a choice of providers at competitive costs.

Please deny this petition.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Lee