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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 am encouraging helping all eligible clients to move to a provider that supports free market competition and net neutrality.

Please, please consider the ramifications of this proposal because it is a huge hit in removing competition from the marketplace. Our country is already far behind its peers in terms of a competitive landscape for broadband providers. As it is, we lag far behind our peers in terms of competitive pricing and speeds for Internet access and the last thing we need to do is continue to slip in our rankings. In the US we have staggering little competition in broadband and pay more than most countries, both in commercial and residential arenas. The big telecoms have done an excellent job of preventing a competitive environment through lobbying for legislation in their own interest.

Broadband is not a luxury item, it is a utility and as such, we still have huge tracts of our country that are without. It's the modern equivalent of not having electricity at your home or business.

Again, between recent hits to net neutrality and proposals to reduce competition, we are on the verge of hurting our country more than it already is in terms of connectivity to each other and the world.

Thank you for taking the time to hear this voice.

Aron Smetana