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Sep 5th 2018

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,

My local internet provider, Sonic.net, is essential in our area for phone and internet access, and I am alarmed and furious that we might lose their services because ATT, Verizon and other big companies want to monopolize the telecommunications market.

Please do not dismantle the 1996 law that guarantees competing small, regional internet companies wholesale access to their copper-wire phone infrastructure through leasing. It has not outlived it's usefulness. It is the way Sonic.net and other small companies continue to provide and expand high-speed broadband services to their customers in competition with the big firms. Without this competition, our prices will go up and the quality of service will go down. Historically, that is the price of reducing competition. Plus the jobs in our rural communities that CLECs like Sonic provide will be lost, creating more unemployment.

It is outrageous that industrys argument for dropping the leasing rule is that residential CLECs are an insignificant part of the business now and are shrinking at a rapid clip. That is not true, because CLECs like Sonic provide vital services including DSL to our communities and are successfully expanding fiber networks, and will continue to expand vital services to our communities unless YOU destroy CLECs by approving the US Telecom petition.

The industrys petition would stifle fiber deployment, cut off rural communities like ours from the broadband service Sonic.net provides, and jack up rates. In many cases, residential CLECs supply the only network access for communities that have been abandoned by incumbent providers. Don't abandon us!

The L.A. Times says that "Hands-off regulation of phone companies and cable firms has made real competition in broadband service effectively nonexistent. Half the households in America have only one choice for decent service their cable operator. Very few have more than two their local cable company and local phone company.

Yet despite their own problems financing fiber, the big phone companies maintain that the CLECs have had more than enough time to build their own fiber networks, and therefore dont need to

continue receiving wholesale rates on copper."

Please DO NOT approve the USTelecom petition!

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