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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 was crushed to hear there is an effort to squash local broadband providers. Please don't make this mistake. We are better as a country when we have competition. Competition keeps businesses honest, keeps pricing within reason, and gives choice as to features provided. I have heard there is a US Telecom petition that you are currently evaluating. Please err in favor of the consumer. The big telecom companies don't need any help getting bigger and fatter.

My mother's house is using broadband provided by a small NorCal provider. If this company is obliterated as a result of the changes to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, I guarantee the price will go up and the service level will go down.

Judith Barry