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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,

Competition in broadband internet providers is important to me. I appreciate the level of personal attention provided by local internet providers. I always speak a local human being who is knowledgeable about the system and the company and can get things done efficiently and effectively. They always have my best interest in view. In contrast, the huge mega companies make everyone a number and customer service reps are mercifully inept reading from screen prompts on the other end of the line and only if you are lucky enough to make it past of the borage of electronic prompts to reach a human being who is rarely if ever knowledgeable about the local area.

Independent service providers are indispensable in rural America. Without them hundreds of thousands of people would not have access to the world wide web, something most people take for granted on a daily basis. These rural areas are not so far from home. In many cases, just a few short miles from of urban areas, internet accessibility is reliant upon local broadband providers. Large companies have chosen not to invest in rural areas to bring them on board with newer technologies, the profit margin is lower and fewer people are served and thus mostly forgotten. Please don't take internet access away from these people by eliminating local internet providers.

Thank you.

Khara Strum