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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,

Im fortunate to live in a part of the United States the San Francisco Bay Area where there is telecom business competition besides the two behemoths (AT&T and Verizon) that most of my neighbors have to choose between. I have been a satisfied Sonic customer, for phone + Internet, for more than six years. This small, Santa Rosa, Calif.-based company is now in the process of expanding its high-speed fiber option to my part of the Bay Area.

I completely disagree with USTelecom, the trade association representing giant incumbent carriers that is asking the FCC to dismantle key parts of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. USTelecom claims that "In the residential marketplace, competition will not be materially affected by forbearance from Section 251(c)(3) because there is effectively no remaining UNE-based competition in that marketplace."

That is flat wrong.

Sonic for one will be affected, and if they lose the ability to offer, at a competitive price, the services they offer, that will affect me, and thousands of other citizens across the Bay Area. I was dissatisfied with AT&T and Comcast because both are expensive, didnt offer the phone+Internet-only package I wanted, and have notoriously poor customer service, which I have personally suffered with.

I am self-employed and rely on my affordable, and soon-to-be high-speed fiber connection, through Sonic, to do my work as a freelance writer and photographer. Its essential to my livelihood.

Without access to UNEs, Sonic cant serve its thousands, and growing quickly, number of customers. Even after Sonic builds out its own fiber network, it still needs access to UNEs to connect from city to city UNEs are the key backhaul for all local competitors like Sonic.

I oppose the USTelecom petition. Its essential that the FCC prevent this action intended to stifle local homegrown competition to greedy giant telecoms such as AT&T and Comcast. Competition is the lifeblood of American capitalism and must be preserved. I say NO to price hikes that will raise

the cost of my phone and Internet services.

Tom Levy