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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,

After many years of using a DSL line for internet service I recently jumped at the chance to switch to a fiber service that provides greatly increased data speed, as well as telephone service. (Mine is provided by Sonic) I get this increased service at a lower cost than AT&T or Comcast could offer. For years those were our only choices, and for years I listened to reps from those companies or their lobbyists tell blatant lies in testimony to regulators about how users in our community had "competition." For years, AT&T regularly solicited me to buy their U-verse service, except they never actually offered U-verse service in my neighborhood and clearly were never intending to extend it to my neighborhood. Similarly, Comcast for years was rated the very worst customer service of any company anywhere for anything. Even now there are complaints about how they abuse customers, especially older people by selling them services they don't want, don't know about and don't use. That is what lack of competition means.

Broadband service is absolutely essential for everyday life now. One cannot apply for a minimum wage job at a fast food restaurant without internet access. Internet is how we interact with our families and friends, with our local government, with Social Security, with police and fire and other government services.

Whatever anti-competitive schemes the big providers are pushing for, deregulation and restrictions on competition, are wrong headed. Not just anti-competitive but anti-American. I implore you to do your job, to properly regulate AT&T, Comcast and the other big providers, to protect communities, to protect competition, to extend service to rural users, and to keep American competitive in the global market.

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