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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 wish to voice my objections to the USTelecom petition for nationwide forbearance from obligations related to the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Access to unbundled network elements (UNEs) by competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) has been instrumental in the deployment and expansion of broadband services. Forbearance from existing obligations relating to UNEs could delay or prevent deployment of broadband infrastructure in many regions.

The access to wholesale rates made it possible for a regional CLEC to invest in and offer faster and more reliable service to my neighborhood at affordable rates. We were able to switch from an incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) copper DSL service to a CLEC Gigabit Fiber. We no longer have to stop working online so our daughters can upload their schoolwork.

Before local access to fiber, the ILEC had little incentive to provide competitive pricing and service. After that point, the ILEC began to introduce additional residential service plans, although at slower speeds and higher costs than the smaller CLEC.

If the USTelecom petition were granted, large ILECs would likely use their resources and market positions to raise consumer costs and reduce consumer choices in an anti-competitive fashion.

Competitive access to fast, affordable broadband services is of critical importance to our national educational and economic interests.

I strongly urge the FCC to decline to grant the USTelecom petition.

V. Chao