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Sep 5th 2018

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 have been involved in information technology since the early 80s, and have seen the steady erosion of initiative and innovation as "old tech"---most of whom derived their wealth from railroad rights of way--try to prevent their regulation as a public utility. They learned the lesson from telephone service. Well, I lamented the deregulation of telephones knowing that the companies who originally had the wealth and power would reassert control once protective regulations were eliminated. The intent to control the internet is simply an extension of the strategy.

Now that almost every individual and business relies on the internet platform as a utility, it needs to be publicly managed and controlled by the public.

So much for my political position on the issue. No for my personal experience:

I deliberately switched my phone and broadband service to a small local provider about 20 years ago. When I started a business in 2013, I added a business account with the local provider. I had flawless telephone and DSL service except when Pacific Bell/SBC/AT&T had a problem. In such situations, my local provider was the hero. They dealt with Pac Bell, et. al, and I didn't have to hear that the problem was with the wiring in my home or some other "it's not our problem" excuse. Once fiber made it's way to the island I live on and I had to move my business office, I was unable to get reliable landline telephone service and DSL. Instead, AT&T refused support the infrastructure I needed and the local provider had no choice but to force me onto a VOIP telephone service and fiber broadband. The phone service has been abysmal--dropping calls, most typically in the middle of an important conversation with a client or attorney and dropping audio on one side of the call or the other.

I beg of you to fight the corporate takeover and continued degradation of service at exorbitant cost of this public utility.

Linda McHugh McHugh