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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,

Petitioner claims that there are no carriers who use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace for telephone and high speed internet. I use such a carrier, Sonic, for telephone and DSL internet service.

This claim is patently untrue and you should deny the petition before you to take away access to critical unbundled network elements from independent carriers such as Sonic.

Independent carriers provide residential and business customers choice, and their competitive rates drive down prices for all consumers. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city fiber; the very technology that allows independent carriers to grow, expand fiber deployment, and compete. This is what the 1996 Telecommunications Act was supposed to accomplish: enable competitive market entry for independent carriers and encourage new network deployment.

The public supports broadband competition and competitive deployment of capital to provide consumer choice. There is no public policy served in reducing competition and encouraging oligopolistic pricing.

Please deny the petition to take away access to unbundled network elements from independent carriers.

WILLIAM EUPHRAT