

John Koerber  
23262 Strathern St  
West Hills CA 91304

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 chose a competitive broadband and telephone service provider because:

- \* Competition is the best cure for the laggard behavior of the two incumbent ISPs (FTTN and cable) in my area
- \* The US ranks #10 in a world ranking [1] of average internet access speed by Akamai Technologies who, as a world-wide CDN, is close to everyone's home, the world over.

The Google Fiber experience showed how difficult incumbents can make things for a competitor who would run their own fiber, said to have delayed and deferred pole placements.

The position of the ISP customer is well stated by this promoted comment [2], quoted here:

"Gern Blaaston Wise, Aged Ars Veteran

"When Google first announced their gigabit fiber plans, I predicted this would happen, although I really thought it would take a little longer.

"Widespread gigabit fiber won't happen in your lifetime. Probably not ever. The U.S. is too big, it costs too much and takes too long. And running all new wiring to every house, in every neighborhood, in every city, just doesn't make sense. We've already wired the entire country, twice (phone and cable) and it's time we make use of it:

"Local Loop unbundling. Force the phone/cable oligopoly to open their networks to legitimate competition. Speed will go up, prices will go down and nonsense like data caps will disappear overnight. You won't get gigabit speeds, but you'll get something that's better than what you have and that will easily meet the needs of the 99% of the population not lucky enough to be blessed with a Google fiber presence.

"Do not allow states to ban municipal broadband"

Likewise, I would add, do not allow incumbents to disallow competitive services over the existing plant. A full-fiber plant has already been paid for [3],[4] but not built, quoting:

"By the end of 2014, America will have been charged about \$400 billion by the local phone incumbents, Verizon, AT&T and CenturyLink, for a fiber optic future that never showed up. And though it varies by state, counting the taxes, fees and surcharges that you have paid every month (many of these fees are actually revenues to the company or taxes on the company that you paid), it comes to about \$4000-\$5000.00 per household from 1992-2014, and thats the low number. "

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_Internet\\_connection\\_speeds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Internet_connection_speeds)

[2] <https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2016/10/google-fiber-laying-off-9-of-staff-will-pause-plans-for-10-cities/>

[3] [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-kushnick/the-book-of-broken-promis\\_b\\_5839394.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-kushnick/the-book-of-broken-promis_b_5839394.html)

John Koerber