

Loni Gray  
2800 Woolsey St.  
Berkeley CA 94705

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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 ask you NOT to repeal the rule granting competing phone and internet companies wholesale, equal access to their copper-wire phone infrastructure.

The large industry players' petition arguing that the rule is an intrusive regulation that has outlived its usefulness" is just not true. The 1996 Telecommunications Act provision requiring major phone companies to lease their copper wire infrastructure to competitors at a regulated price allows our local CLEC's to offer inexpensive, innovative DSL.

Therefore, all providers large, medium and small need a level playing field to keep a healthy competitive marketplace, and to continue to offer QUALITY products. It happens because of this rule.

....and our nation NEEDS this to keep pace.

On a personal level, my boarding house business requires many tenants to share one internet service. We've been satisfied Sonic customers for years, switching from AT&T, because of Sonic's excellent ethical privacy and customer service practices, AND because of their ability to provide us better service at a lower price! We have been eagerly awaiting the fiber upgrade that they are investing in in our local region as well.

That will not happen if left to only the big players. I have heard that AT&T and Verizon complain that the high upfront cost of installing fiber must limit its expansion to only a few areas of the country, yet small nimble providers like Sonic are investing and expanding fiber consistently! This regulatory rule allows the more nimble small and medium players to funnel profits into fiber, a service this region and our nation as a major power needs.

There is much to be said for the savvy small providers like Sonic who build a solid business model, employ 500 locals, and provide service to rural and other communities the bigger service providers are big enough to ignore.

In summary, the 1996 Telecommunications Act that this petition is trying to undermine is a good one. It protects healthy marketplace competition. It fosters good local businesses and jobs. And it pushes to help every citizen in our country have better access. It serves the public YOU serve. DO NOT repeal the rule requiring major phone companies to lease their copper wire infrastructure to competitors at a regulated price.

Please !

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