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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,

This letter is to ask that you do not pass the US Telecom petition. It is important that we continue to provide for competition for internet and telephone services. Putting these capabilities in just a few hands will increase prices and reduce competition. In the past I have used one or more of the large telecommunications companies for internet and telephone services but a while ago I moved to a smaller local company.

This smaller company was able to provide fiber to my house and increase my internet speed for less than I was paying to the larger telecommunications company. The large telecommunications company was NOT able to provide fiber to my home and they charged me more for slower internet access.

I am very happy with my local fiber company and would not want to see them impacted with this petition.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act was important when it was put in place and it is even more important today. As the larger telecommunications companies continue to merge and purchase smaller companies the level of competition is negatively affected. Removing the safeguards of the act will be devastating to smaller companies trying to compete with the giants.

Please do NOT pass the US Telecom petition.

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