

S. Lewis Newton  
4620 Rockmeadow Place  
Santa Rosa CA 95405

Sep 7th 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 am a long time very happy customer of a local internet provider, Sonic.net. They give good service. They are responsive. They post messages letting us know of upgrades, outages, and changes so we know exactly what is going on. Their price is lower than both ATT and Comcast in our area and their service is more responsive. Sonics FTTN (Fiber to the Node) service we receive rides for the final half mile on ATTs twisted pair phone cables to our home. It is critical that completion be maintained, and that Sonics access to this network is kept available. For the present implementation of this service, Sonic is contracting with ATT for the entire networking infrastructure, while Sonic is providing support, problem resolution, and central services supporting email, VOIP phone and voicemail, web services, VPN, FAX, domain hosting, and other such services. I would like to see fiber to our home, and Sonic is working to provide that in the future (its not yet available in our neighborhood).

Competition to ATT and Comcast is critical or prices will continue to go up. Everyone in our area Ive talked to who uses Comcast deplore the service they receive, complain about the high prices, and complain about the run-a-round they receive in trying to get a good contract or when problems arise. Ive also looked at contracting with ATT directly but their prices are not as good and Id give up a lot in terms of added services and the superior responsive support that Sonic provides.

Sonic includes VOIP phone service, Linux server shell access, web hosting, a personal domain name, extra mailboxes, and lots of email file space. They provide a good web based email client, although I use IMAP, which works well for me. They also include FAX send and receive functionality, lots of voicemail capability and other functionality for their phone service. They also include VPN service, and other services as part of the package.

Sonic is a breath of fresh air. Their forums are active and Dane Jasper, president of the company, personally monitors and replies to postings, questions, and with updates.

I am very sensitive to price and Sonic provides very good value for the money.

Please do all you can to enable local internet providers to effectively compete and deliver services.

Thank you for listening,

S. Lewis Newton