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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,

Until recently, Comcast was the only ISP that serviced my apartment in suburban Berkeley, and I was forced to sign up with them even though they weren't selling internet access separate from cable access. They keep raising the price every month for services I don't want. They charge me for unused equipment, and when I called them to say I wanted to return it, they said they'd just send replacement equipment (and charge me for that) if I did.

Another time they double charged me, and after many hours on the phone with them, they finally waived the erroneous fee. I found out a month later that they'd simply turned the fee over to a collections agency rather than really waiving it, and I was forced to pay to avoid a hit to my credit score. This amounts to extortion, plain and simple.

Without regulations to ensure other ISPs can overcome the initial investment hurdle to enter the market, Comcast and AT&T will continue operating like cartels and extorting the American public for access to high speed internet, which is an absolute necessity, not a luxury, for finding work, getting an education, and generally participating in modern society.

Thankfully, Sonic has found a way to enter the market in my area, and I'll be switching to them soon. Please keep facilitating competition: affordable internet access for all is critical for the American people to acquire the skills necessary to keep America globally competitive.

Drew Lopshire