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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 am writing to state my strong opposition to the USTelecom petition. This is a blatant attempt to force me to use costly and unreliable services by eliminating the very customer friendly competition I now use. My provider brought ATT on site three times to get my line working properly and at the end of the third meeting they had still not agreed to fix the issue. I was exploring how to report them to any regulators when they finally fixed the line. I have had loss of service for two to three days at a time waiting on their repairs since then. I have to call for service on lines in my neighborhood two to three times a year. I have friends who are in another community and stuck with ATT. They have service interruptions every two to three weeks with customer service so bad they don't even attempt to call. If my provider has any wait period to speak with customer service they call me back when available and gladly help resolve the issue and charge far less for service.

The option of cable rather than the slower DSL is available but is a dreaded alternative through Comcast. They have been known to leave the entire community without service for a whole week. They have notoriously bad billing practices and customer service. I had home phone service with dial up internet services through their cable because they bought out the previous provider. The old ATT (prior to Pac Bell's acquisition) had developed the service. Comcast harassed us for months after we switched to phone lines to obtain DSL service to pay a bill that was not due. The callers had no knowledge of what bill they were collecting. They simply wanted to collect money they were not owed.

Cell service is still spotty in our area although we are on the fringes of the San Francisco bay area. Verizon recently throttled service to firefighters fighting the largest wildfire in California history. Their response; Opps. The Tubbs fire less than a year ago came through an area with very limited service options where the delivery of emergency notifications is still be debated. That fire started after dark and had whipped out over 5,000 homes by day break with at least 40 deaths.

To grant these companies petition to eliminate the strong competitive services we need in this area would be insulting to these communities. Please maintain the rule and deny this petition.

Gary Shirley