

Ralph Wilcoxon
1327 Milvia St. / Apt. 4
Berkeley CA 94709

Sep 11th 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,

In the present business environment far too many people choose to make most of their purchases online from companies based in distant places. This makes it more difficult for smaller and locally-based enterprises to succeed and in turn makes it more and more difficult for local citizens to find adequate employment in the communities in which they choose to live and work. This also means that tax money that might be spent to provide local services is sent out of the community.

In my modest way I try to buy local and to support smaller and local businesses. In this way I am able to have, when possible, first-hand knowledge of the staffs of most of the businesses I frequent, and to see that most of the taxes on locally-bought goods stay in the town where I live.

I believe that Americans get the best products and best services when innumerable small businesses are able to know the local market and know their customers well. Thus, even though I am a disabled veteran with a very modest income, I prefer patronizing local businesses and whenever possible do not patronize gigantic mega-firms that entice the buyer with initially lower prices until they have a virtual monopoly on a product or service.

I am very pleased with my Internet and telephone service from my local provider and know, moreover, that I can walk to their offices in about ten minutes and get immediate attention whenever I have any questions about my service.

The FCC should continue to protect these small locally-based businesses and to preserve them from those gigantic who-knows-where business which put their own profits above all else.

Ralph Wilcoxon