

Gayle Mills
262 Alpine Street
San Rafael CA 94901

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,

Save competition! I am a residential customer of Sonic in San Rafael, CA, and I want Sonic to continue according to the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The 1996 Telecommunications Act protects the little guys against monopolies.

As LA Times' Michael Hiltzik reported July 5, 2018:

"For years, the big companies have striven to hamstring competition across the telecommunications landscape. And last month, they essentially asked the Federal Communications Commission to finish the job by repealing a rule granting competing phone and internet companies wholesale access to their copper-wire phone infrastructure. The industry petition argues that the rule is an intrusive regulation that has outlived its usefulness.

No way! Sonic is a bustling company with excellent customer service.

As Hiltzik reported:

"About half of Sonics customers receive DSL broadband service over phone lines Sonic rents from AT&T. But the companys future rests with the fiber it has been laying, starting with five Northern California cities San Francisco, Berkeley, Albany, Brentwood, and Sebastopol. In those cities phone and internet service now is available to an estimated 182,000 homes or commercial establishments, with further expansion in the cards."

Don't allow the big guys to win this one. Say NO to their plans for massive price hikes that will increase the cost of internet and telephone services and for what? Not for my benefit. I am benefiting from my excellent residential service from Sonic. It's DSL now, but this company is doing what the big guys don't want to do--it's laying fiber! A safer, healthier choice than the current, extremely controversial small cell 5G that Verizon and others want. Talk about cutting corners! Support competition.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act required the major phone companies to lease their copper wire infrastructure, on which phone service traveled, to competitors at a regulated price. Some, such as Sonic, have used revenue from their phone and DSL customer base to finance expansion into fiber

internet service.

Keep this requirement. It's working! For my household and thousands of others.

Thank you!

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