

Jeff Armstead  
647 East Francisco Blvd. #2  
San Rafael, CA 94901

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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 have recently been made aware that USTelecom has petitioned to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, claiming that residential consumers will not be affected because there are no carriers who use unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs) to compete in the residential marketplace.

I can personally verify that USTelecom's assertion is false, and that there are indeed many citizens who go with ISP's other than companies such as AT&T in my area. In fact, there are few ISP options where I live, and only the local ISPs are making notable progress in improving the internet infrastructure in my area. I believe dismantling the components of the Telecommunication Act will have substantial negative impact to many consumers, and will only reduce healthy competition in the marketplace and aid organizations such as AT&T in building a monopoly.

My experience as a past customer of AT&T is that they were wholly uninterested in improving their infrastructure to offer internet speeds that exceeded even the low points of most third-world countries, and that became increasingly absurd based on the fact that a) I live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and b) that local providers were motivated to improve conditions for residents at competitive rates. AT&T has proven they are less interested in providing a competitive service as they are in manipulating regulations to eliminate competition.

This is frankly a disgusting, dishonest move on the part of USTelecom, and I implore you deny their petition on the grounds that their reasoning is flawed and their assertion proportionately inaccurate.

Jeff Armstead