



Christopher Felmlee
Superintendent of Schools
303 North Main Street
Ashland, MO 65010

Telephone: 573-657-2147
Fax: 573-657-5513
Email: cfelmlee@ashland.k12.mo.us

September 14, 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) to Accelerate
Investment in Broadband and Next-Generation Networks, WC Docket No. 18-141

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southern Boone School District, which serves roughly 2,000 students in the Ashland, MO area. We are a Socket customer, and we urge you not to grant USTelecom's petition.

When we first partnered with Socket 11 years ago, the local telephone company couldn't offer the services we needed to connect our telephone system. Socket stepped in and provided the necessary services, and we've since moved additional services to Socket's network as they have demonstrated an ability to provide fast, reliable technology along with responsive customer service.

Access to such technology enhances our students' ability to succeed. Socket currently provides telecom services via fiber-optic technology to five of our locations and also utilizes legacy infrastructure for other buildings.

Working with one provider for all of these services greatly simplifies operations, so our staff can focus on serving our students educational needs. Had Socket not been able to provide a competitive alternative, our district might not have received the services it needed to run efficiently and effectively. Socket is also active and involved with both our school district and the local community, providing broadband to our residents and students in areas not serviced by the local telephone company.

Please do not end the ability of providers like Socket to offer an alternative to the incumbent providers.

Respectfully,

Christopher Felmlee
Superintendent
Southern Boone County R-1 School District