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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 USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC: Consolidation in this country is getting out of bounds. One company merging/gobbling up another -- it's beyond a money grab; it's outrageously greedy. I hold a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri (MA '80), so I've been around the block, so to speak. In grad school, I took a two-semester course known as "Controls of Information." At that time, it was about the consolidation of newspapers and magazines to go along with companies purchasing television stations/radio stations or vice-versa, or in any combination thereof. It was about having a single or few entities having control over the flow of information to the general populous. Well, here we are nearly four decades after I graduated and there's more information control and consolidation than at any time in history. We have foreign governments vying to control OUR information, OUR elections. It's totally out of control.

I grew up in the shadow of "Ma Bell" and the so-called "Baby Bells." Some of you commissioners may even remember the semi-satirical 1967 film, "The President's Analyst" starring James Coburn. In a nutshell, the plot depicts an over-arching telecommunications industry seeking to gain societal control. Here is the Wiki Link:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_President%27s_Analyst.

In time - namely in the 1980s and 1990s we saw the break up of Bell Telephone Cos. and the rise in fair competition -- or at least fairer competition -- between carriers. With the introduction of the cell phone, such a landscape played out to an even greater extent. However, as you know, more and more of late, one company is "re-gobbling up" a competitor, or two, or three. Soon we'll be back to vertical integration -- Ma Bell rises again! -- this time even more drastically so with the advent of advanced technology, product placement in television and film, and the merger of multi-multi-corporations.

I'm writing to you in the strongest terms to ensure there is fair competition between carriers; consolidation = without doubt, higher prices. Look at what's happening in the airline industry. My current carrier, Socket Internet, epitomizes what's good about these here United States of America: Fair Play, Entrepreneurialism, Community and Localism not to mention personal service. If you, when a vote comes up, or a chance to do the right thing surfaces, decide, instead, to limit providers/carriers, then you are not only quashing the so-called free market system, you are doing an immense disservice to ALL Americans -- yourselves included. For once, will you people

do the correct thing, take the compassionate approach and place greed in the back, rather than the driver's seat.

Respectfully & Sincerely Submitted,

Jon Poses