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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,

I am a cancer genetics scientist. My work can help save lives by making genetic testing more effective. To do my work, I am utterly reliant on broadband internet: to telecommute (I often work very late from home), to access scientific articles, and to accomplish what I can of my work while in transit between meetings. I am very strategic in my approaches to downloading and organizing work that I can do on the train.

I am continually dismayed by the state of broadband services in this country! When I was a postdoc, I lived in France. My roommates and I subscribed to a package that got us broadband internet, cable television, and VOIP phone service - for roughly \$30/month! The equivalent service in this country costs easily \$100. The quality is not better. It's simply market costs. There are few providers (and few alternatives), and the providers are highly profitable companies.

Now I believe that since I am a U.S. citizen and taxpayer, and you are a branch of the U.S. government, you work for me. I know this isn't exactly true in practice, but it should hold some thread of truth - I should have some sway. I cannot underscore the importance of supporting greater competition in the U.S. broadband industry! Broadband internet has become essential to life in our culture - and it's certainly essential to mine. Use your power to make this a healthy ecosystem.

One way you can help this is to quit your change to the rules on copper networks. My small ISP, like many others, depends on copper networks to reach rural areas. If the copper is removed, operation becomes impossible.

Do your best work on this, and continue to require local phone companies to maintain their copper networks!

Thank you for all of your work.

Melissa Cline