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October 23, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I would like to bring to your attention the concerns raised by roughly 1000 of my constituents regarding a forbearance petition filed with the FCC by USTelecom (WC Docket No. 18-141). The petition would impact provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that enable competition for telecommunications and broadband services. The letters that my constituents submitted to the FCC regarding the petition illustrate the importance of alternative competitive providers in the telecommunications marketplace. These competitive providers leverage existing infrastructure and invest in local markets, which in turn ensures that communities like those in my district have choices when it comes to telecommunications and broadband. Additionally, this competitive market pressure keeps services at affordable prices and encourages innovation and broadband deployment, especially in more rural or remote locations.

Many of my constituents live in areas where online access to services such as e-commerce, healthcare, and education is limited. Their letters highlight the importance of a competitive telecommunications marketplace in reducing the digital divide and ensuring that all Americans can access the internet, and I ask that their comments be carefully considered as you review the petition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

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