March 18, 2019

**VIA ECFS**

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

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation   
WC Docket No. 11-10**, *Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 14, 2019, the undersigned of Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”) met with Rodger Woock of the Office of Economics and Analytics to discuss the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission”) pending reforms to the Form 477 in the above-captioned proceeding.

During the meeting, we discussed the most effective way to satisfy the Commission’s goal of identifying areas that lack access to broadband. I explained that if its goal is to bridge the digital divide and direct resources to where they are most needed, the focus of its mapping effort should be on determining served and unserved areas (i.e., areas where a provider has built out its network to provide broadband) rather than on reporting subscribed and unsubscribed customers.

Accordingly, revising the Form 477 to require providers to submit shapefiles of served areas – from which the Commission could then extrapolate a list of served and unserved addresses – has significant advantages over recent proposals to require submission of customer subscription data.[[1]](#footnote-2) First, data depicting a provider’s served area better advances the Commission’s goal than data showing the locations of its current subscribers, because subscriber locations underrepresent the extent of deployment, as many homes with access to broadband choose not to subscribe to the service. Second, requiring providers to submit shapefiles would reduce the risk of disclosure of more-detailed subscriber information in violation of our customers’ privacy.  Third, because many companies can easily produce shapefiles of the areas they serve and because the FCC is already set up to receive shapefiles for wireless providers, the Commission could more quickly and easily implement this solution.

I also asked about other less-invasive options for obtaining a map of comprehensive locations in unserved locations, such as existing maps developed by the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Census Bureau.

I mentioned that several providers recently participated in a pilot conducted by Connected Nation in Kansas that created a map based on shapefile reporting of providers’ service areas, and asked whether the Commission had received information about this pilot program.[[2]](#footnote-3) As NCTA has explained, the existence of these programs “strongly suggests that any technical and operational challenges associated with the use of shapefiles likely can be overcome.”[[3]](#footnote-4)

Finally, I raised concerns about providers being forced to turn any of their data over to a third party in testing of any methodologies. Regardless of how the Commission decides to reform the Form 477 deployment data, the Commission should be the only entity that collects any such information.

Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Elizabeth Andrion*

Elizabeth Andrion  
 Senior Vice President   
 Regulatory Affairs

cc: Rodger Woock

1. *See, e.g.*, Letter from Lynn Follansbee, USTelecom, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 11-10 (Oct. 17, 2018); Letter from Ola Olyefusi, AT&T, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WC Docket No. 11-10 (Oct. 12, 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *See* The Kansas Broadband Map, https://cngis.maps.arcgis.com/‌apps/webappviewer/‌index.html?id=‌72ab65f4‌ac2c4207‌abd1e575fa148cb4&extent=-11379818.9931%2C4398192.5707%2C-10557968.‌065%2C4910626.‌4083%‌2C102100. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. *See* Letter from Steven F. Morris, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, NCTA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 11-10 (Feb. 27, 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)