

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS
AND RECREATION
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
ELECTIONS

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CITIES
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LABOR

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



RICH FUNKE
Senator, 55TH District

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 415
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12217
(518) 455-2215
FAX: (518) 426-6745

DISTRICT OFFICE:
PACKETTS LANDING
SUITE 210
FAIRPORT, NEW YORK 14450
(585) 223-1800
FAX: (585) 223-3157

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
FUNKE@NYSENATE.GOV
WEBSITE:
FUNKE.NYSENATE.GOV

July 17, 2020

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I proudly represent New York's 55th State Senate district, a diverse district that touches Lake Ontario in the North, the East side of the great city of Rochester as well as the Finger Lakes to the South. Prior to my election in 2014, I worked on-air at News10NBC Rochester for over 40 years. Forging a successful career in media broadcasting, I fully appreciate the vitality of connecting with the public and the importance of investing in the infrastructure that supports it. For these reasons, I support Charter Communications' mission of helping bridge the digital divide through its reliable broadband connectivity services. Specifically, I offer my support for Charter's petition to roll back the merger conditions around data caps and usage-based billing by May of next year.

As the ranking member on the Senate Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks & Recreation as well as the Committee on the Civil Service and Pensions, connectivity is an integral part of serving the community members I represent. Whether it's delivering timely information regarding flooding on Lake Ontario, or the latest events at Rochester's Neighborhood of the Arts – my constituents rely on Charter's services to keep them informed and connected to the community. Through these connective services, my constituents in Rochester have access to Spectrum News' 24/7 news, sports and weather coverage along with In Focus public affairs programming.

I've had the privilege of partnering with Charter on several community events, including electronics recycling. Charter has demonstrated its role as a respectable corporate citizen in numerous ways and I'm pleased to see the company acting on its mission to go above and beyond for families and businesses when delivering its services.

Speaking directly to the merger conditions imposed in 2016, I'm glad to see that Charter has taken positive steps that warrant sunseting these conditions. Charter has been a committed business entity helping bridge the digital divide, showcasing this since their merger and has facilitated the success of online video distributors by investing in their networks to increase speeds and making it easier for customers to access online video distributors' content. These positive actions Charter is taking are the opposite of the 2016 FCC's reasons for imposing the conditions in the first place. There is certainly no effort by Charter to stifle online video distributors. For these reasons, I am confident that the previous conditions laid out by the FCC can officially be rolled back in May of 2021 and I support Charter's request to sunset the merger conditions in question.

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As I continue to support legislation in the New York State Senate aimed at helping businesses grow and creating opportunities for our communities, I hope to see that Charter is afforded the same rules as other providers so it can continue to grow and provide reliable services to customers in my district and beyond. I look forward to continued partnerships with Charter in the years to come and supporting their community-based efforts to bridge the digital divide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Funke".

Richard Funke
New York State Senator