



WYOMING SENATE DISTRICT 8

July 16, 2020

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

Chairman Pai,

As a state senator in Wyoming, I have a unique appreciation of the needs of rural communities. My district includes Cheyenne, Charter's largest market in the state, but I am keenly aware that 17 of our 23 counties in Wyoming have less than 6 people per square mile – these are considered the "frontier areas" of our state. Forty-seven percent of Wyoming's residents live in these frontier areas. It is because of providers, like Charter, that many Wyomingites have reliable access to quality broadband.

I am writing to you today to express my support for the recent FCC filing by Charter requesting the sunset of two merger conditions:

- Data Caps and Usage-Based Billing
- Settlement-Free Interconnection

It is my understanding that these conditions were put in place at a time when the content streaming marketplace looked vastly different than it does today. Their intentions at the time, to ensure competitive growth, made sense but are no longer necessary today. These conditions should be removed in order to level the playing field for all content providers in the field.

I applaud Charter's far-reaching efforts to address broadband demands in Wyoming communities. Not only has Charter delivered connectivity to many of my constituents, but I am impressed with their Spectrum Internet Assist program which provides reliable low-cost broadband for at-need customers. Most recently, their COVID-19 response connecting households with students and educators for free during the pandemic has been critical to the distance learning taking place here in Wyoming and across the country. As a mother of three school-aged children, the challenges of balancing distance learning along with tele-work is very real to my family and I commend Charter for going above and beyond to help households during this incredibly difficult time.

In addition, I personally work with Charter on multiple non-profit initiatives which support women, including:

- Climb Wyoming (provides job training and placement for single mothers)
- Wyoming Women's Foundation Antelope Hunt (supports economic self-sufficiency for women by teaching them to hunt and provide nutritious foods for their families)
- Women's Legislative Caucus Leap Into Leadership program (encourages women to run for office and seek board appointments through training and mentorship)

I am excited to watch Charter continue its work connecting the residents of Wyoming and partnering with organizations to further serve their customers and the communities in which they operate.

I appreciate your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Affie Ellis".

Senator Affie Ellis
Wyoming District 8