



The Honorable Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 St, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 20, 2020

Dear Chairman Pai,

As the President of the Albany, New York branch of the NAACP, I have come to rely on fast, reliable internet to help connect me with our members and other branches around the country as well as monitor progress on some of the NAACP's objectives: ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens and inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination.

In 2018, the NAACP received a \$10,000 grant through the Spectrum NYS Broadband Access and Learning initiative. These funds were used to support the NAACP's Youth Council mentoring program in Albany.

From applying to jobs to helping students complete homework to online banking, broadband internet is a vital tool to competitively participate in today's world. Bridging the digital divide is personal to me and our more than half a million members and supporters around the country. A Pew Research survey conducted in early 2019 revealed that 58% of African Americans reported owning a desktop or laptop computer and were less likely to have a broadband connection at home. Charter Communications has shown a commitment to closing the unequal distribution of access to internet and technology. As we face the unfortunate realities of COVID-19 we realize that many of our children are living in these homes with no broadband connections. The lack of which could adversely affect their ability to complete their assignments or apply to college.

I am writing to you today to urge you to grant Charter's request to end the two merger conditions regarding data caps and usage-based pricing and interconnection on May 18, 2021. Ensuring Charter is on a level playing field is not only fair and reasonable, but it will allow them to continue and enhance their efforts to bridge the digital divide in minority and low-income communities.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

Debora Brown-Johnson
President, Albany Branch
NAACP Albany