

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

The Montana Business Leadership Council (MBLC) is dedicated to educating Montanans on the importance of maintaining a healthy climate for businesses and industry to create more jobs, higher wages, and new economic opportunities. We're always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in Big Sky Country, thus we have taken a particular interest in recent developments in the cable broadband industry. We've worked for years with Charter and believe that the proposed merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks into New Charter would bring numerous benefits to Montana.

Over the past three years, Charter Communications has invested over \$112.9 million in our state in order to upgrade us to 100 percent digital, doubling our basic broadband speed to 60 Mbps. Of particular importance to Montanans, New Charter has pledged to build out one million line extensions into residential areas to provide high-speed service to rural and other underserved areas across its footprint. This will greatly help business and residents in rural areas have access to high speed broadband at a low rate.

Entrepreneurs today rely on this technology and fast speeds in order to do business and connect with customers. New Charter will offer an array of different packages to meet consumers' needs. Their lowest broadband speed of 60 Mbps will be cheaper than comparable offerings from Time Warner Cable. And they've pledged to promote network neutrality and an equal-access internet, by promising to avoid data caps and usage-based billing.

New Charter will also prioritize American jobs, and will bring TWC's call centers back from overseas. They won't be making any layoffs from the merger, and they'll be hiring and training thousands of new customer care employees.

Here at the Montana Business Leadership Council, we believe that New Charter will be a pro-business, consumer oriented approach to the cable broadband industry, and would make many positive contributions to our local business climate. For these reasons, we ask you to consider the benefits and vote to approve the merger.

Sincerely,

Fred Thomas
Chairman