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Received & Inspected
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FCC Mail Room

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July 23, 2015

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

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

The Retail Council of New York State - on behalf of over 5,000 member stores, both large and small - has worked for over 80 years to serve the needs of merchants and related professionals by providing a wide range of products and services that save members both time and money. In this capacity, we also advocate for industry advancements that benefit retailers throughout the state and country.

We write today in support of the proposed merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks LLC.

The role of reliable and affordable high speed Internet in operating a successful retail establishment continues to grow in importance - it is no longer a luxury, but a crucial component to remaining competitive in the 21st century. Brick-and-mortar stores no longer compete solely with merchants in their local community, but are forced to compete with Internet-based companies that may have little or no presence in the state. Access to broadband Internet allows retailers with a physical nexus in New York to expand their customer base beyond the confines of their specific locality, while also giving them the opportunity to directly compete with a growing number of Internet-based stores. It is our understanding that New Charter recognizes these factors and has committed to invest \$2.5 billion in commercial areas to create additional, much needed competition in the commercial sector. In addition, New Charter is dedicated to network neutrality and will not charge customers based on data usage - as a result, retailers will have high-quality Internet speeds without any restrictions.

With approximately 3.2 million customers across 1,100 communities in New York, New Charter will have a large footprint in the state. Charter and Time Warner Cable already employ more than 11,000 New Yorkers in customer call centers and as field technicians in New York. By returning call center jobs from overseas, it is our understanding that retailers will also experience more streamlined assistance should they need it.

We are confident that New Charter would ensure our members have access to the best Internet services possible. Therefore, we support the proposed merger and respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission do the same.

Sincerely,