

INTERNATIONAL SOAP BOX DERBY



RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

The International Soap Box Derby is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to build knowledge and character, and to create meaningful experiences through collaboration and fair and honest competition. The Derby's STEM-based Education Program uses the tools and values of Soap Box Derby racing to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to students in an enjoyable, engaging way.

Innovation plays a key role in STEM education, and as such, fast and reliable broadband plays an increasingly important role. It is with this in mind that I write in support of the merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks – New Charter.

STEM education is becoming more and more critical in the 21st century. In order to continue developing young people to be problem solvers of tomorrow, we need to provide them the tools they need. New Charter would provide broadband that would do just that, with a slowest broadband level of 60 Mbps. Additionally, New Charter will not block or slow down Internet traffic or engage in paid prioritization.

New Charter will also continue the commitment to bettering our communities that the companies merging together have shown. Time Warner Cable has been a partner with the International Soap Box Derby since 2012. One event alone sponsored by TWC in Akron, OH – the Gravity Racing Challenge – saw 131 school teams taking part. This racing challenge used the tools and values of the International Soap Box Derby to introduce STEM to students in a fun and engaging way, and we know New Charter will make an excellent partner moving forward.

The Derby's Education Program is a fast-growing component of the organization. With the right tools, this program will continue to grow and teach important STEM skills to students. New Charter will help us provide those tools, and we strongly encourage the FCC to support this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bobby Dinkins'.

Bobby Dinkins
Vice President
International Soap Box Derby

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