

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

August 28th, 2015

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

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write in regard to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) deliberation on the proposed merger between Charter Communications and Time Warner Cable. Since the great recession, Colorado's economic performance has shined. We have worked diligently to support an economic environment that supports economic competitiveness and innovation throughout our state. While we have made significant progress, as we look to support the provision of broadband across our state at new standards, we will need every tool available and every willing partner to achieve success.

We have worked diligently to make Colorado investment-ready through common sense updates in our state's statutes and regulatory framework. It is in the spirit of collaboration that we have enjoined our private sector, community, federal and local partners to work toward our goal of ubiquitous access to adequate broadband services in urban and rural areas of our state.

Given the strong presence of both Charter Communications and Time Warner Cable in Colorado it is important to acknowledge the benefits that could result from the proposed merger. According to Charter, in the last three years, the company has invested over \$33.7 million in our state in order to create a virtually all-digital network. Likewise, New Charter has committed as part of this transaction to devote at least \$2.5 billion to commercial networks and build out one million residential line extensions around the country.

In addition, Charter has grown its Colorado workforce to over 900 employees and last year alone had an economic impact of \$130 million in total salary and employee benefit expenditures. Time Warner Cable also has a strong presence in the State, with a customer call center in Colorado Springs employing more than 1,000 people. We were delighted to learn that New Charter plans to return all outsourced Time Warner call centers to the United States, meaning the potential for more Colorado jobs.

The potential investment that could result from this merger, particularly in rural areas, will be an important component to connecting citizens in many rural areas. We are excited that New Charter's investments in Colorado could continue to support rural regions' ability to keep pace with a 21st Century economy and ensure adequate access to broadband services.

As the FCC reviews the proposed merger, we urge you to recognize the potential benefits of the merger and consider the importance of maintaining an accessible and open internet that will support innovation and economic prosperity throughout Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" starting with a large, looping 'J' and the last name "Hickenlooper" following in a similar style.

John Hickenlooper
Governor