



# ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman, FCC  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As the Minority Leader of the Alabama House of Representatives, it is my job to ensure that my constituents in Etowah County and the citizens of Alabama have the tools at their disposal necessary to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century American economy. For the roughly 40,000 people in my district and 5 million people statewide, this means having access to fast, cheap and reliable internet service. I believe that the proposed merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks will give Alabamians the tools necessary to succeed through upholding network neutrality, increasing broadband speeds, and lowering prices.

New Charter would make commitments to help serve the greater good through maintaining network neutrality. Network neutrality ensures the Internet remains as a public good; free and open to all those who wish to use it. A free and open internet allows small businesses to compete with larger corporations online. All businesses, regardless of size, need a presence on the Internet in order to compete, and by ensuring network neutrality, New Charter would be committing not to prioritize some companies over others.

New Charter would promise faster broadband speeds and relatively lower pricing. They'd offer a base package of 60 Mbps broadband speed to enable households to maximize their potential on the web without having to sacrifice bandwidth. New Charter will also continue Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks' advanced 300 Mbps service. With its base offering of 60 Mbps, New Charter can offer higher speeds at a less expensive rate than comparable offerings by TWC and BHN.

Unleashing the potential of my constituents starts with an open, fast and cheap Internet. I support this merger because New Charter can provide these pro-consumer, pro-broadband services to Alabama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CF", written over a horizontal line.

Craig Ford