

September 21, 2015

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
RE: Proceeding No. 15-149

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

As the elected State Senator for several rural Counties I am grateful for the opportunity to offer my strong support for the proposed merger of Charter Communications, TimeWarner Cable (TWC) and Bright House Networks (BHN) into "New Charter." This collaborative partnership will help further the broader goals of Oregon's rural economic development.

During Oregon's 2015 Legislative Session, we focused on a budget that would protect rural investments in education, small business, and key regional economic development projects. While I am proud to secure funding for our rural priorities, I strongly believe that New Charter's pledge to spend at least 2.5 billion to improve telecommunication performance and support small business subscribers in rural areas is critical to low-income customers. This commitment not only advances entrepreneurial activities, it adds support to local businesses looking to expand their connection to the state's economy.

The declines in the timber and fishing industries have caused significant economic hardship to Oregon's rural families. While the trend has finally started to change, we are keenly aware that these communities desperately need greater job diversification if the current economic situation is to change. New Charter's commitment to returning jobs back from overseas call centers and hire thousands of people to improve our customer care services create that much needed job diversification.

I believe Oregon – and in particular, my rural district - is poised for an effective approach to improve access to broadband, investment in customer care, increased job opportunities and a quicker rollout of advanced technology. As such, I strongly urge your support of New Charter's application on blending those elements together that will increase our region's economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Boquist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian J. Boquist
State Senator District 12