



2 North Jackson Street, Suite 302
Montgomery, AL 36104
Office – 334.676.2085
Fax – 334.676.2087
E-mail – info@edaa.org
Web Site – www.edaa.org

Economic Development Association of Alabama

August 17, 2015

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

At the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) we work to educate, network and positively impact the economic development of our state. Our membership consists of economic development professionals and those that have a keen interest in the continued growth of Alabama's economy. EDAA is truly "The Voice of Economic Development in Alabama" and today that voice will address the potential merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks into New Charter.

We believe New Charter would improve the cable broadband industry and bring regional development to communities across the United States. New Charter would offer customers, which includes companies of all sizes, the highest-quality services at very affordable rates. They would also prioritize investment in areas the industry has for too long neglected. These services will certainly enhance our economic development efforts throughout Alabama

Our members understand the importance of quality broadband services. All businesses engage technology and Alabama companies desperately need high-tech services at affordable rates. New Charter would let our members choose from a slowest speed of 60 Mbps all the way up to the ultra-fast 300 Mbps. Options will provide flexible services to companies of all needs and be of particular value to smaller companies with less resources and allow opportunity to work with high speeds and hassle-free products without imposing high costs. This would be a tremendous asset in fostering entrepreneurial efforts throughout Alabama

New Charter would also develop our nation's broadband infrastructure through a series of financial and material commitments. For example, it would build one million new residential lines and invest \$2.5 billion to build commercial networks. These investments would provide desperately needed improvement rural areas. The plight of underserved rural communities has been ignored for too long and we believe New Charter would directly improve regions in Alabama and spur investment by industry competitors.

We are hopeful that New Charter is approved. We are confident New Charter will play a significant role in improving Alabama's economic development effort. We urge the FCC to consider supporting the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Searcy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Jim Searcy
Executive Director

c: Taylor C. Vice