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November 20, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to offer my support for the proposed Charter/Time Warner Cable merger because I believe that the applicants have shown through their actions, not just their words, that multicultural independent programmers like Fuse Media will fare better as a result of this combination.

Fuse Media is the parent company of two independent, multicultural-themed cable/satellite networks: Fuse (formerly NuvoTV) specializing in multicultural long-form original and syndicated entertainment, and FM, specializing in music with particular appeal to multicultural and millennial audiences. In partnership with Jennifer Lopez, we have developed original programming designed to serve diverse communities across a wide spectrum of American culture, including Latino, LGBT, and other dynamic audiences.

Sufficient distribution is the necessary antecedent to success for any programmer, given the dual revenue streams of per-subscriber licensing fees and advertising, both of which are dependent on robust carriage to the highest number of pay-TV homes possible. Moreover, given the high cost of creating original programming, networks generally cannot succeed with online, "over-the-top" distribution as their only means of reaching an audience. They need good distribution partners in the cable and satellite TV industries.

Independent networks struggle disproportionately to secure sufficient distribution because we lack the bundling leverage enjoyed by networks co-owned with broadcast TV stations or must-have cable/satellite networks. For those of us specializing in minority, niche, multicultural audiences, the distribution challenges are even more pronounced, since we do not aim to serve affluent audiences, such as business news viewers, or households generally willing to pay extra for a single channel. The communities we serve therefore tend to have fewer opportunities to receive programming from competing sources, particularly independent voices like Fuse Media.

In this increasingly difficult environment for independent networks, the recent behavior of Charter Communications stands out as exemplary. Fuse Media recently reached an agreement with Charter to distribute our two networks, Fuse and FM, on favorable terms across Charter's cable systems. If the proposed combination with Time Warner Cable is approved, our position will only improve. For this reason, we support the proposed combination of Charter and Time Warner Cable without conditions relating to the availability of content from independent programmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Schwimmer
Chief Executive Officer
Fuse Media