RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing today to urge the approval of the Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable (TWC) and Bright House Networks (BHN) merger. As Speaker of the House in the Montana Legislature, I have a responsibility to look for ways to improve Montana and am always interested in bringing more innovative services to the citizens of my great state. I believe that the combined company, New Charter, will do just that, and will raise the bar for high-speed services across Montana.

Consumer choice is important, and for far too long, our rural residents have had few options when it comes to cable broadband services. New Charter, however, will change that. They plan to invest significantly in their current networks to raise broadband speeds to a minimum of 60 Mbps and will add High Definition and video On Demand options. They’ve committed to offer packages with speeds ranging from 60 Mbps to 300 Mbps across their entire footprint, including Montana. Additionally, they’ll invest at least $2.5 billion in the build out of networks into commercial areas and will build out one million line extensions in order to add much need competition to the commercial and residential sectors. These are robust commitments, and it is my hope that it will spur additional provider investments even in areas where Charter is not the provider by setting the standard for advanced services.

Innovative services are crucial for our business communities, as well. New Charter will bring their entire combined footprint completely all-digital, improving video streaming services and employing a new cloud based technology. They’ll also offer 10 Gbps services for large business, schools and libraries.

Consumer-friendly and with a multitude of package options, I know New Charter will benefit Montanans. I therefore ask you to swiftly approve this transaction and allow Charter, TWC and BHN to merge.

Sincerely,

Austin Knudsen
Speaker of the Montana House of Representatives