

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

In our 21st Century economy, it's critical that our students and our schools have the cutting-edge technology they need to learn and compete. Technology now goes hand-in-hand with education and is a tool our students greatly rely on. As both the District 12 Councilman in Louisville, Kentucky, an educator at Mercy Academy, I urge the FCC to support the pending merger of Charter, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks and am excited about the expanded access New Charter will provide to schools across its footprint.

The combined company, New Charter, is dedicated to facilitating schools and students with the broadband connections they need to learn and grow. I've been an early supporter of Charter because they have long supported schools by offering packages with speeds of 10 Gbps and have partnered with schools across the country.

From completing homework to conducting research to applying to colleges, our students rely on internet every day. But too many face a digital divide and struggle to afford cable broadband services. New Charter seeks to bridge that gap by offering a broad low-income program and low-priced services so that families of all incomes can afford basic broadband services at home.

They'll also offer a multitude of different packages with speeds ranging from the basement package of 60 Mbps to continuing Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks' offerings of 300 Mbps, with their basement speeds offered at a lower cost than comparable alternatives. Consumers exceedingly need more options in the cable broadband market, and I appreciate that New Charter won't take a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

I look forward to the investments New Charter plans to make in the community. They've committed to invest significantly in both in-home and out-of-home WiFi access points to expand service while on the go. They'll also build out an additional one million line extensions of their networks into residential areas so that even rural and previously underserved communities have access to robust, high-speed services. I know that will mean a lot to certain areas of Kentucky. By building out networks, they'll create more competition in the commercial sector.

I know New Charter will provide many benefits to our schools and our community, and I look forward to their many initiatives. Kentucky needs New Charter; and we ask you to vote to approve this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councilman Rick Blackwell
Louisville, Kentucky Metro Council