August 19, 2015

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

Dear Commissioners,

The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) supports the merger between Charter Communications and Time Warner/Brighthouse for the economic benefits that the transaction will generate, both directly through job creation, and indirectly through the expansion of broadband service.

The creation of New Charter will generate new American jobs, as the new company will return TWC call center jobs to the U.S., as well as continuing to hire field technicians and customer service representatives. In addition, New Charter’s commitment to investing heavily in broadband updates and expansions will result in even more job opportunities.

Importantly, not only will these planned expansions of broadband into new and underserviced areas create direct jobs as the infrastructure is installed, but the access to modern broadband will have extremely positive impacts on business and the overall economy in the areas receiving the new services. Broadband is no longer a luxury in the business world, but a necessity. Expanding high-speed service to rural areas will do much to bolster the local economies of those regions by opening up new markets, and providing business owners additional tools for growing their operations.

The newly-formed company will also invest a minimum of $2.5 billion in the build-out of commercial networks outside their current operating areas. This is a significant capital investment and will result in greater competition within the commercial sector, helping to keep costs of business low, while improving communications services.

It is also important to note that these are not just idle promises on the part of New Charter, but legally-binding commitments.
This merger will have broad-based economic benefits in many communities across the nation, but especially in rural, underserved regions. The advantages to both consumers and businesses in these areas are significant, and as such we strongly support the merger and urge the FCC to approve it.

Sincerely,

Kristi Pollard
Executive Director