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August 18, 2015
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding number 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners,

The planned merger of Charter Communications with Time Warner Communications and Bright House Network will bring significant benefits to the residents and business owners of Western Colorado. Through this merger, consumers in my district will have greater access to broadband services, higher internet speeds, and an overall improved communications infrastructure. As well, commercial businesses will enjoy greater competition among their communications and information services providers, leading to increased efficiency and lower costs. The merger brings the best of all three companies under one roof, with the consumer being the ultimate winner.

Access to broadband is a critical issue for much of rural western Colorado. Many factors, most notably the low population density common in large parts of the region, have worked against bringing this increasingly vital communications service to the homes, farms, and small businesses that dot our somewhat remote landscape, but nevertheless contribute greatly to the regional, state, and national economy. As technology progresses, and the world becomes more and more connected, high speed internet becomes less of a luxury and more of a necessity.

With this merger, Charter has committed to expanding their network into areas beyond where they currently operate. Specifically, the company has pledged to build out one million line extensions into underserved residential areas, invest more than \$2.5 billion in buildouts into commercial areas, and invest heavily in WiFi expansion. These are legally binding promises that are written into the merger agreement.

All of this will help expand access to critical high speed internet service, and the capital investments will also create jobs in rural areas. In addition, the company has pledged to bring the call centers associated with both Charter and Time Warner back to the United States from overseas. This will result in thousands more jobs, as customer service representatives and field technicians will need to be hired.

Overall, this is a very beneficial transaction which has my support and that of my constituents, and I hope that your Commission will see to it to support the merger as well and approve it in due course.

Respectfully,

Senator Ray Scott
Colorado Senate District 7