February 2, 2016

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


Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 29, 2016, Gene Kimmelman, Harold Feld, Phillip Berenbroick, and John Bergmayer of Public Knowledge (collectively, “Public Knowledge”) met with Commissioner Rosenworcel and Johanna Thomas, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel, to review issues facing the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) in 2016. In particular, Public Knowledge noted that a number of proceedings and transactions provide the Commission with an opportunity to promote the public interest in related ways.

Transactions

Public Knowledge noted that, when considering how the Commission can promote the public interest when reviewing transactions such as the proposed Charter/Time Warner Cable/Bright House merger, it should consider how public interest conditions could help advance the Commission’s other priorities, such as set-top box reform or affordable broadband, in transaction-specific ways.

Affordable Broadband

Public Knowledge urged the Commission to move quickly to conclude its Lifeline modernization proceeding. Public Knowledge noted the importance of facilitating participation in a modernized Lifeline program by as many broadband Internet access providers as possible. Providing Lifeline subscribers with choice and competition will improve the quality of services available to consumers, drive down prices, and protect the integrity of the Universal Service Fund.
Set-Top Box

Public Knowledge reiterated its support for the Commission's announced rulemaking on set-top box reform, which will promote innovation and access to diverse content, while saving consumers billions.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s rules, this letter is being filed with your office. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (202) 861-0020.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John Bergmayer
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Cc: Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Johanna Thomas