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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE LEE CHATFIELD
107TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIR
EDUCATION
HEALTH POLICY
TAX POLICY

February 3, 2016
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 express my firm support for the pending merger of Time Warner Cable, Bright House Networks and Charter Communications into a new company, New Charter. As the Michigan State Representative from House District 107, I look forward to the new company bringing positive benefits to my state and my constituents.

It is my hope that New Charter will be bringing faster, cheaper cable and internet services to Michigan. With their lowest basic package including robust speeds of 60 Mbps, it's cheaper than Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks' current offerings. Affordable broadband and high speed connectivity is crucial in our highly-technological world, but it's something too many people currently cannot afford. New Charter has addressed this issue by committing to expand on Bright House Networks' low-income broadband program for families who qualify. This will ensure needy families aren't left on the other side of the digital divide.

Unlike many cable broadband companies, New Charter will prioritize American jobs and hiring. One of the first things the company has pledged to do upon approval of the merger is to return all overseas Time Warner Cable call centers back to the United States. This will greatly improve customer care, and has the potential to spur job growth in our region. Following strong diversity and inclusion initiatives, New Charter will hire and train thousands of new employees for jobs in customer service.

New Charter also plans to make significant investments in broadband in order to make services better for consumers and cover areas that have been previously underserved. Since 2012, Charter has invested over \$5.7 billion in infrastructure and technology, and New Charter has committed to continue these investments by building out one million residential line extensions. They will continue to invest at least \$2.5 billion in the build-out of networks into commercial areas, creating much-needed competition in the market.

My constituents deserve the latest technology at competitive prices, and this transaction would be great for Michigan. For the reasons outlined above, I urge you to weigh the many positive impacts of this merger and vote to approve.

Sincerely,

State Representative Lee Chatfield