



February 3, 2016

VIA ECFS

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

Re: **Notice of *Ex Parte* Meeting – Applications of Charter Communications, Inc., Time Warner Cable Inc., and Advance/Newhouse Partnership for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, MB Docket No. 15-149**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 2, 2016, Michael Fletcher, Chief Executive Officer, and Craig Morris, President, of Ride Television Network, Inc. (“RIDE TV”) met with the following staff of the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) in the above-captioned proceeding: Owen Kendler of the Office of General Counsel; Betsy McIntyre of the Wireline Competition Bureau; and Ty Bream, Brendan Holland, Julie Saulnier, and Ali Zayas of the Media Bureau.

The parties discussed the current state of affairs for independent pay TV providers attempting to launch on cable and satellite operators. RIDE TV does not oppose the proposed merger between Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks currently under consideration by the Commission. However, RIDE TV is very concerned that the large MVPD’s, for the most part, have little interest in launching new, independent channels.

RIDE TV explained that over 30 million Americans ride horses each year, there are over 20,000 horse shows, and 1 in every 63 Americans is directly involved with horses. They shared that RIDE TV is like many independent programmers in that it serves a large number of Americans with family oriented, informational, entertaining, and well produced programming but is a victim of the current environment of pay TV.

RIDE TV discussed with Commission staff its experience in carriage negotiations with large MVPDs, in which RIDE TV—like many other independent programmers—has been repeatedly told that the large MVPDs “will not launch new channels unless forced to” and that “independent channels have no leverage.” RIDE TV further explained that this situation is exacerbated by the largest programmers’ practice of bundling their channels, which, in effect, forces the MVPDs to launch the largest programmers’ new channels. As a result, the MVPDs hold back their resources in anticipation of being

