

February 4, 2016

Mr. Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing in support of the proposed merger of Charter, Time Warner Cable (TWC) and the Bright House Networks (BHN) to create New Charter. As a community activist, businessman and head of a large organization for more than 35 years, TELACU (The East Los Angeles Community Union), who has dedicated more than 50 years to bringing economic development and empowerment to underserved communities throughout California, I strongly believe that the merger will result in significant benefits not only for underserved communities, but also for the entire state of California, through increased investment in local networks facilities and broadband services.

New Charter's commitment to the full digitization of the TWC and BHN systems along with their promise to deploy more than 300,000 out-of home WiFi access points will increase broadband speed and availability while also increasing mobile data competition, directly impacting customers' mobile data plans. Additionally, Charter's current slowest broadband tier is almost twice that of BHN's and **four times** that of TWC—and it's less expensive! New Charter will offer this faster broadband access to all customers, regardless of location, based on the same pricing model Charter currently employs. This will eliminate all data caps, usage-based pricing, modem and early termination fees and result in thousands of California households being upgraded to higher speed broadband or even being able to afford broadband in the first place. And when underserved communities in our state gain better and more affordable access to high speed Internet, all Californians benefit. Whether they reside in remote rural communities, low-income urban neighborhoods, like those served by TELACU, or anywhere in between, it is in the state's interest to make sure that these disconnected communities are not left in the slow lane.

High speed Internet access has become vital to the success of individuals and communities. Our state's commitment to equal economic opportunity, educational advancement, and democratic participation can only thrive if everyone has equal access to these critical communications networks. The Pew Internet & American Life Project has found that poorer Americans and minorities are less likely than the affluent to have a high speed Internet connection. Sparsely populated rural areas often lack the financial incentive for Internet service providers to invest in costly high speed telecommunications infrastructure.



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As the Founder & Chairman of the TELACU Education Foundation that annually serves more than 2,000 middle through graduate school students and veterans, I know the importance of high speed broadband to academic success. With the accessibility of high speed broadband, students in the most impoverished inner-city neighborhoods and distant rural regions can take advantage of the same Internet resources as students in the most affluent suburbs.

For more than 12 years, I had the privilege of serving as a Board Member of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), and for 7 of those years I served as the National Chairman. The USHCC represents the interests of nearly three-million small and medium sized businesses. In the area of economic development, broadband availability creates wealth and opportunity for underserved low-income areas by attracting businesses that want to locate near a high speed Internet network, such as IT and communications companies that cannot operate competitively without broadband. A study by the Brookings Institution shows that for every percentage point increase in broadband penetration, employment expands by almost 300,000 jobs!

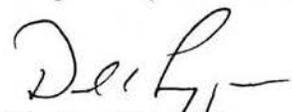
In addition to New Charter's commitment to broadband deployment, they have made other serious commitments that will improve the economic viability of our great state including:

- Dedication to bringing jobs back to the U.S. from overseas call centers
- Increasing the number of jobs here in California
- Desire to be an excellent corporate citizen through their inclusionary approach that includes meeting with a multitude of diverse interest groups and growing their involvement in all areas of outreach to all groups

I was recently invited to participate in one of Charter's numerous interest group meetings where I was privileged to meet many of their top executives, including several high-ranking members of the Government Affairs Department. They made a commitment to continue Charter's efforts to bring jobs back to the U.S., and California specifically, while promoting diversity and inclusion. I am very encouraged by Charter's history of exemplary corporate citizenship and I am confident that New Charter will continue that good work.

It is, therefore, without reservation that I respectfully and strongly urge the FCC to approve this proposed merger.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. David C. Lizárraga
Chairman and Founder

