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• Street Dept.
• Parks Dept.
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February 9, 2016

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to convey my endorsement of New Charter, which would form from the proposed merger between Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks. As the City Manager of Manistee, I am entrusted with improving the quality of life for about 6,200 individuals residing in Northern Michigan. To that end, I am certain that our rural town, like many others across the country, would benefit from the impressive ventures planned for New Charter.

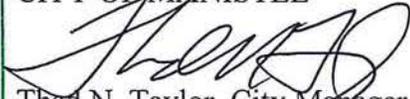
Fast and affordable broadband is crucial to keeping communities connected, stimulating enterprise, and improving educational outcomes. New Charter would devote at least \$2.5 billion in commercial networks and build out one million residential line extensions. To meet rapidly growing mobile demands, it would further add 300,000 Wi-Fi hotspots. Together, these outlays comprise the broader strategy needed to bring the country's failing telecom infrastructure up to date.

New Charter would also make a number of admirable investments in human capital. It would return call centers from overseas and employ thousands of Americans. It would additionally offer low-cost broadband service options. Eligible participants – families with students in the National School Lunch Program and senior citizens who receive Supplemental Security Income – would benefit from free modems, no usage-based billing, unlimited data use, and a commitment to network neutrality.

For two decades, Manistee has enjoyed excellent service from Charter. As such, I am confident that Time Warner's diversity initiatives and Bright House's superb customer service will only enrich what is already a great user experience. For this reason and those listed above, I respectfully ask that you support this exciting merger.

Sincerely,

CITY OF MANISTEE


Thad N. Taylor, City Manager
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