November 10, 2015

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington D. C. 20554

RE: MB Docket NO. 15-149

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing regarding the proposed merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks into New Charter. In my role as a Michigan State Representative, I am deeply connected to the needs of American consumers. I know that certain technology products have become critical tools, but that access remains a challenge for those with limited financial means. I believe New Charter would boost access for low-income consumers, and I urge the commission to approve the merger.

New Charter would work to bridge the digital divide through a variety of initiatives. The company would be committed to diversity and inclusion throughout its hiring, procurement, programming, and community investment programs. I am particularly impressed with its efforts to connect rural and underserved consumers with the power of the Internet. For example, New Charter would offer a low-income program to qualified households throughout its national footprint. The initiative would bring high-quality broadband to customers at a reduced rate. Additionally New Charter representatives relayed their position supporting net neutrality. This condition is key to the efficiency of New Charter’s efforts to reduce the digital divide. I truly believe the initiative would serve as a vital connection for countless consumers that for too long have been priced out of the cable broadband industry.

New Charter’s commitment to bridge the digital divide is an outstanding effort that must be encouraged by elected officials. The low-income program has the potential to connect students with educational resources and parents with job opportunities online. I urge the commission to consider the importance of technology access and approve the merger.

Best,

Jon Hoadley
Michigan State Representative
60th District