



March 14, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing in reference to both the Notice Of Inquiry (MB Docket No. 16-41) and the current merger talks to create a New Charter. I wish to comment on one specific item, Alternative Distribution Methods (ADM) in this letter.

I am the co-founder and C.E.O. of Ride Television Network (RIDE TV). We are a 24/7, high definition, pay television network focused on the equestrian lifestyle. Our family oriented network delivers needed programming to the 30 million Americans who ride horses each year. Although our shareholders include individuals with broad business and political relationships (Alice Walton, R.D. Hubbard, John Paul DeJoria) our experience as an independent channel confirms what other indie programmers have attested to, independent channels need relief from certain practices of large MVPDs in order to gain carriage, be sustainable as a business, and to compete fairly in the marketplace.

One example is the use of ADMs in contracts. We do not currently have a distribution agreement with Charter, Time Warner Cable or Bright House. However, we do have other carriage agreements with other MVPDs. Generally speaking, ADMs preventing independent networks from distributing their content to over-the-top ("OTT") video providers are anticompetitive and has hurt the marketplace. MVPDs demand digital rights to programming to enable them to distribute a programmer's channel over the Internet to their authenticated customers and have no right to restrict programmers from distributing their programming via all distribution methods so long as the programmer honors the "most favored nations" clause of their agreement.

We believe that the FCC should take immediate action to negate the harmful effects of these ADMs that restrict competition and diversity on television. We do support the merger but we also believe that there should be certain conditions to the merger. We support the merger condition proposed by Herring Networks, Inc., and respectfully request that the Commission consider it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Fletcher".

Michael G. Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer
Ride Television Network, Inc.
mgf@ridetv.com

Cc: Kenneth H. Jones, Jr., Craig Morris