April 6, 2016

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

Re: Ex Parte Presentation in MB Docket No. 15-149

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The undersigned yesterday, on behalf of beIN SPORTS, met with William Lake, Chief, and Brendan Holland, Industry Analysis Division Chief, of the Media Bureau.

We discussed the merger specificity of beIN SPORTS’ proposed condition (below), especially given the behavior of Charter Communications with respect to independent sports programming services but also in light of Time Warner Cable’s treatment of such programmers in North Carolina and elsewhere. We also discussed the potential applicability of the proposed condition to other independent programmers that have or will acquire rights to distribute international sports in the U.S. Finally, we reviewed the importance of sports programming to the video market generally and the related goal of promoting source diversity in this critical content category.

Sincerely,

/s/
David Goodfriend

cc:
William Lake
Brendan Holland
Proposed Merger Condition

Within sixty (60) days of the date of this Order, and for ten (10) years thereafter, New Charter shall carry on its linear video programming service, on all of its cable systems nationwide, one or more Independent Sports Networks—

a) in the same manner as New Charter carries its proprietary sports networks (e.g., Time Warner Cable Sports Network on New Charter’s Los Angeles systems), including without limitation channel positioning in the sports programming neighborhood, and carriage on the most widely available programming tier;

b) in a manner equal or comparable to other nationally distributed sports programming services (e.g., ESPN, Fox Sports Network) on any navigation user interface; and

c) without limiting Independent Sports Network’s ability to distribute its content, including branded content not distributed on New Charter video programming services, using Alternative Distribution Methods.

“Independent Sports Network” means a non-broadcast, linear video programming network that (i) is not, under the Commission’s general attribution rules, owned or controlled by any Multichannel Video Programming Distributor or broadcast licensee; (ii) features predominantly (i.e., more than 50% of its programming) live, non-U.S. originated sports programming; and (iii) serves a Hispanic audience in the U.S., as established by the Nielsen rating service.

“Alternative Distribution Method” means exhibiting or receiving any full-length and real-time, delayed or on-demand programming from the Independent Sports Network via the Internet, high speed data or broadband, to any device, including (without limitation) computers, personal/portable electronic devices (e.g., notebook computers), and/or to wireless devices (e.g., mobile phones) either inside or outside the area served by New Charter.

“New Charter” means the combined Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks cable systems approved by this Order.