Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

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

Dear Attorney General Lynch and Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express our concern and urge you to consider the consequences of approving Charter Communication's proposed acquisition of Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks (hereinafter "Charter-TWC merger"). If approved, the Charter-TWC merger would discourage industry competition, increase customer costs, reduce customer choice and hinder innovation.

The magnitude of the proposed merger would alter the broadband industry, and further limit consumer choices when purchasing high-speed internet. The Charter-TWC merger will further consolidate the telecommunications industry and give control over high-speed internet to only two companies: the newly-formed Charter and Comcast. These companies would then provide services to nearly 80 percent of American homes and curb any substantial competition from other cable and Internet providers.

Moreover, we ask you to reexamine how a merger of this magnitude will impact the public good and access to affordable broadband services. We are concerned that this merger would make broadband services less affordable because affected customers will have little choice but to buy Charter's already costly plans. In order to complete the deal, Charter plans to take on $27 billion in new debt, which it will likely pass onto customers through increased rate adjustments. While all customers would see higher prices, low-income families and communities of color would be impacted the most. People in these communities already struggle to pay their cable and Internet bills, or simply live without Internet access. We are concerned that this proposed merger will expand the "digital divide" as more customers will have to choose between paying more than they can afford for broadband service or discontinuing service altogether.

Access to broadband service is necessary for finding jobs, participating in school, staying connected to family, paying bills, accessing medical information, and running a business. Broadband services must be affordable and available to all Americans, regardless of their income

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or where they live. This will only be possible if we encourage broader participation in the telecommunications industry and prioritize the public interest when considering broadband provider consolidation.

We appreciate your willingness to oppose past mergers that limit competition and hope you will give the same careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Keith Ellison
Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus

Raúl M. Grijalva
Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter regarding Charter Communications' proposed merger with Time Warner Cable and acquisition of Advance/Newhouse Partnership, the parent of Bright House Networks. I appreciate hearing your views.

Consistent with our rules, the Commission will evaluate whether these proposed transactions are in the public interest. Our analysis on any transaction is always robust and takes several factors into account, including the issues you raise in your letter. Not only do we assess whether we can appropriately remedy any harms that may arise from the transaction, we also place great emphasis on the benefits that the transaction will confer on American consumers. While I am unable to discuss the merits of this particular proceeding, I can assure you that the Commission is conducting an open and transparent process as required by FCC rules and regulations. After developing a full and complete record, we hope to conclude our review as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for your interest in this matter. Your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 15, 2016

The Honorable Keith Ellison
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ellison:

Thank you for your letter regarding Charter Communications' proposed merger with Time Warner Cable and acquisition of Advance/Newhouse Partnership, the parent of Bright House Networks. I appreciate hearing your views.

Consistent with our rules, the Commission will evaluate whether these proposed transactions are in the public interest. Our analysis on any transaction is always robust and takes several factors into account, including the issues you raise in your letter. Not only do we assess whether we can appropriately remedy any harms that may arise from the transaction, we also place great emphasis on the benefits that the transaction will confer on American consumers. While I am unable to discuss the merits of this particular proceeding, I can assure you that the Commission is conducting an open and transparent process as required by FCC rules and regulations. After developing a full and complete record, we hope to conclude our review as quickly as possible.

Again, thank you for your interest in this matter. Your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler