Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Comcast and Time Warner Cable are two of the largest cable and broadband providers in the country. The FCC should deny their proposed merger under its mandate to serve the public interest with regards to cable licensing.

Comcast has claimed that the proposed merger does not impact consumer choices. This claim is misleading at best, since Comcast and Time Warner have mutually agreed not to compete locally. Comcast claims that DSL and 4G wireless providers compete with them for broadband access. This claim is also misleading at best, since those options are a) not available in many parts of the country b) slower or c) even more expensive than cable broadband.

The public interest calls for meaningful competition in a vibrant marketplace. Indeed, in a few lucky places like Kansas City, new providers have challenged the incumbents, resulting in better choices for consumers. But here in Seattle, Comcast has lobbied our city government to prevent a planned municipal broadband project from moving forward. Nationally, the cable lobby has proposed legislation in several states to ban this type of competition from municipalities.

The proposed merger would allow Comcast to consolidate its existing market power, reducing choices available to both consumers and content providers. Please deny the proposed transfer of licenses, as it does not serve the public interest.