

July 31, 2014

To: FCC, Proceeding 14-57

Please do not approve the Comcast / Time Warner Cable merger as requested by the companies. This deal will be bad for current and potential subscribers of Comcast, Time Warner Cable, and Charter Communications. We need more wireline competition, not less.

Case in point: I live in an area covered by Charter. Although Charter claims they provide service to my location (National Broadband Map / FCC 477 data), they do not and they are unwilling to extend service the requisite 1500 ft. The same is true for many other residents in this area. My understanding is that Comcast plans to swap territories with Charter. As a result, much of California would be served solely by Comcast. Less competition is likely to make service expansion even less probable.

If Comcast wants to be a monopoly, then the company should: 1) be regulated by the FCC, 2) Separate their internet service from other business activities, and 3) commit to 100% coverage of all homes and businesses in the areas where they provide service. This commitment needs to include specific coverage goals and dates. Comcast internet service is effectively a utility for the public good and Comcast should manage and operate this business like one.

Cable companies appear to limit service to residents with short term profitable returns, charge customers more if they want unimpaired service instead of expanding their network capacity, bundle services so that consumers pay for services/features they don't want and/or don't need, and operate without competition in the areas they serve. This looks like monopoly, swims like a monopoly and quacks like a monopoly. This is bad for consumers and bad for the country in terms of economic growth and global competitiveness. If cable companies do not want to be regulated monopolies then they should become smaller, more nimble and more competitive. That would create more innovation and opportunity for both consumers and businesses.

We need find a better way to provide ubiquitous and affordable broadband to residents across the country. We are counting on the FCC to set this right.

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