



**SENATOR AUDREY GIBSON**  
9th District

## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities  
Criminal Justice  
Regulated Industries

**SELECT COMMITTEE:**  
Select Committee on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

August 12, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As a long serving legislator in both the House and Senate, and as a current member of the Florida Senate Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Committee, I have seen the technology shift in our great state. Our citizens are benefitting, but more work needs to be done which is why I am writing today, to strongly encourage your approval of Comcast's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable.

Comcast has demonstrated clear understanding of the needs and issues facing our communities including in my home district of Jacksonville. Last year in Florida, I understand that Comcast spent over \$2.6 billion investing in its infrastructure, employees and our communities. This considerable investment is in addition to the other benefits to the community that the company undertakes, such as Comcast Cares Day where over 5,000 Comcasters in Florida give their time to rebuild schools, clean up parks, and beautify the community. An event in which I have had the opportunity participate.

For years, I have been a proponent of economic and workforce development championing the rebuilding of our communities hit hard by foreclosures, transportation, especially for seniors and the disabled, and the continuum of education particularly pre-K through 12. All of these issues which I continue to fight for, can benefit and be directly tied to affordable access to some type of technology. With access to low-cost internet through Comcast's Internet Essentials program which provides home internet service at an affordable rate to those who qualify, looking for employment or avenues to increase skill set will be as easy as turning on the television, students of all ages and parents will have better access to teachers and lesson plans, and transportation can be arranged with a click instead of a long waiting call.

In Jacksonville, nearly 22,000 households are eligible for Internet Essentials. I can only imagine how many families there are across the country who would be eligible for this program. If the proposed transaction were to be approved, countless more families could have the opportunity to enroll in the Internet Essentials program, thus opening doors to knowledge, education and opportunity.

Chairman Wheeler, I speak not only for my constituents, but the many others who will benefit from a Comcast and Time Warner Cable union. I ask you and your fellow Commissioners to favorably approve this transaction.

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson, State Senator District 9

**REPLY TO:**

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- 205 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5009

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**DON GAETZ**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore