



**Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Greater Chesapeake**

Mentoring Maryland's Future

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August 18, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, we are committed to helping children and youth reach their fullest potential through professionally supported mentoring relationships and a broad range of services with quality standards and measurable impact. Our agency provides these services in Central, Southern, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland where we seek to provide services that bring about social, emotional, and academic improvement.

In order to provide these services we rely on funding from multiple entities, including corporate funders such as Comcast, which has played an essential role in funding our agency through sponsorship as well as our Beyond School Walls program. The program utilizes Comcast employees to meet with children from a local elementary school on a bi-weekly basis at a local Comcast office focusing on age-appropriate curricula on entrepreneurship, business communication, and professionalism. Comcast has fully funded this program and provided the mentors necessary to make this a successful program on top of sponsorship dollars that they provide to make our fundraising campaign successful.

I am writing to you today to convey our support of the Comcast/Time Warner Cable merger. As a result of this merger, more children and youth and their families will have access to the Internet Essentials program, a crucial tool that is being used to help facilitate a number of resources online that may not be accessible otherwise. Online access, particularly pertaining to educational tools, is a resource that every child should have access to. Comcast is leading the way in helping to make achieving this goal possible. Due to this and the company's continued support of our work, we encourage you to fully support this merger as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terry F. Hickey, Esq.
President and CEO

Cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Ajit Pai, Commissioner
Michael O'Reilly, Commissioner
Brad Palazzo, Director, External Affairs