

August 22, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comcast/Time Warner Cable Merger

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the Maine's business community representing a network of over 5,000 businesses across the state of Maine. Investment in advanced communications networks and services are important to the economic vitality of Maine businesses and citizens. I would like to share with you, our experience here in Maine with Comcast and why we believe the merger with Time Warner will help grow our economy and our communities.

Comcast's record of investment in Maine highlights its commitment to investing in the communities it serves to provide industry leading products and services. During the late 2000's Comcast purchased SusCom (Susquehanna Communications) which served 11 communities in the Bath-Brunswick and Freeport area which is approx. 85 miles from any other communities Comcast served. Comcast purchased a network which did not offer phone as a product, limiting the ability to offer the triple play. The network offered very limited Hi-Def video options, limited Hi-Def video channels and no ability to stream content inside or outside the house. Critically, the broadband offering for citizens and businesses was limited.

Over a three year period Comcast brought voice and the triple-play to customers in the area, broadband services were upgraded to the latest technology giving customers access to speeds of greater than 100Mbps. More recently Comcast has invested in wi-fi technology which enables businesses to offer encrypted secure networks as well as publically available wi-fi for the public. Wi-fi is becoming an ancillary service which customers expect and Comcast's investments in wi-fi is offering businesses a simple turn-key service which greatly improves our customer's experience.

Comcast's multi-year investments to upgrade and improve services in even the relatively far flung portions of its service territory is evidence of their commitment to providing the communities they have served in Maine advanced services and shows their commitment to invest in Time Warner's communities after the transaction closes. The combination of Comcast's service area with Time Warner Cable's in Maine will offer businesses in particular major efficiencies and benefits.

In addition to the investment Comcast has made in Maine, the merger will also give them the ability to offer services state wide that will benefit business with multiple locations throughout the state. Being a rural state, this is major benefit for a state like Maine. Previously, businesses with locations in Kittery, Freeport and Lewiston could not rely on either Comcast or Time Warner to connect their businesses. This ability to provide a common platform offers obvious operational efficiencies but it also offers increased security and added redundancy which is increasingly important to all types of businesses.

Even for business which only have a single or handful of locations the merger of Comcast and Time Warner companies in Maine has great benefits because having a common interconnected network with greater redundancy improves redundancy and dependability for Maine's business community. One example of this in the Bath-Brunswick-Freeport area which has been served by Comcast have long been connected by a single fiber loop which carries all traffic into and out of those communities because those communities are so far from the rest of the Comcast network. After the merger is approved Comcast will be able to connect directly to neighboring Time Warner communities significantly improving redundancy.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter that has statewide impacts for the State of Maine. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce urges the commission to approve the merger and help in moving Maine's economy forward.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Connors', written in a cursive style.

Dana Connors  
President