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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF TENNESSEE**

NASHVILLE

OFFICE OF JOHNNIE R. TURNER

**MEMBER
CONSUMER AND HUMAN RESOURCES
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**TREASURER,
TN BLACK CAUCUS OF
STATE LEGISLATORS**

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

As a legislator in a state currently served by Comcast, I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the proposed Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction.

My goals as a Legislator for the State of Tennessee, and as a longtime public servant both as a former educator and administrator, have always included a strong focus on children, specifically on the quality of their education. The proposal that is before you is a wonderful opportunity to improve on the education of children in Tennessee and other U.S. states; as such I respectfully ask the Commission to give its approval.

There are additional benefits to be realized from the transaction. They are based in economic strength and future-looking industry. Comcast has built one of the best, strongest broadband networks in the world. Its investment in Tennessee since it first came here totals more than \$2 billion, and its services keep growing with video, WiFi and faster Internet. Although our state may be bounded by land, surrounded by other Americans, the world today calls for us to be ready to interact with people in different countries, all over the globe. A highly-developed and fast technology network is no longer a curiosity, an extra. It is a basic requirement for government, for businesses and, of course, for schools.

Our nation's children are in training for work in a global economy filled with constant innovation and, to obtain jobs, they need the right connections. I have worked as a legislator to bring about those connections, and to be sure that training in developing technologies is available to all of our residents. Comcast has done much the same thing through direct and

indirect efforts made from the corporate level all the way down to homes in remote communities.

For example, I believe that Comcast has improved its Internet speeds at least once a year since 2002 and it dramatically increases its network capacity on a regular basis. The company is making those improvements widely available in communities where it operates, even in homes where the cost of Internet would be prohibitive. It does so with its aptly named Internet Essentials program, which is a discount plan that has been embraced in homes in Tennessee at an average rate of a few thousand more homes each year. Altogether in states in which Comcast operates, I understand that 350,000 families are signed up for Internet Essentials. I think of the million or so people that likely represents and feel so grateful that their technology needs are being met at an affordable cost.

As the former executive director of the Memphis branch of the NAACP, a branch that was cited as the nation's most outstanding and largest for many years, I know how to work with people to get things done. Top performance comes with top partners, and that's what Comcast has been in our state and communities across America. I hope to see the company's proposed transaction receive approval, knowing that economically, technologically and socially, we may all derive benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnnie R. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Johnnie R. Turner
Memphis, TN