

DISTRICT OFFICE:

3849 W. OGDEN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60623
ArthurT@ilga.gov
773-277-4700 OFFICE
773-277-4703 FAX

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:

238-W STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-8116 OFFICE
217-782-0888 FAX



ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ARTHUR TURNER
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 9TH DISTRICT

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August 20, 2014

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:

I am an elected Representative in the Illinois State Legislature, a resident of Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood, and a committed voice for the people I represent. As such, I take this opportunity to urge the Commission to act favorably on the proposed Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction. The proposal carries numerous potential gains for my constituents by providing Comcast the scale to compete globally and to create new opportunities across the country for North Lawndale residents and others.

I understand that Comcast spent more than \$1.3 billion on capital, employee, and community partnerships in Illinois last year. While some industries have relocated or reduced investments, Comcast has, since its start here in 1996, invested more than \$6 billion in capital expenditures in Illinois.

The Comcast and Time Warner Cable proposal promises tangible economic benefit to the minority community. The number of minority-owned firms in Illinois stood at about 10 percent at last count (closer to 25 percent in Chicago). Choosing diverse suppliers and recruiting minority talent in business is a matter of basic fairness, and supplier and hiring policies at Comcast reflect a commitment to diversity. Besides a diverse board of directors and a U.S. workforce that is 40 percent people of color, Comcast sources numerous services through diverse suppliers.

And Comcast has a record of following through on - if not exceeding - pledges it makes, as it did following its merger with NBC Universal, which occurred as I was first elected to state office. One of the commitments carried out in the Comcast and NBCUniversal merger was the promise of greater Internet access for low-income populations. As a result, more than 1.2 million Americans now have home Internet through the Internet Essentials initiative, including tens of thousands in Chicago, where the program has been a huge success. Comcast has said it will extend this program indefinitely, offering more opportunity to communities throughout the nation.

Beyond the economic opportunities that Comcast's presence offers, Illinois residents stand to reap the benefits of more choices, faster broadband speeds, and new diversity in cable programming. Comcast has a track record of bringing users diverse offerings, and we welcome yet more opportunities for our families in Illinois and beyond to enjoy entertainment and information delivered by diverse performers and experts.

From the promise of greater economic opportunity to increased access to diverse programming and the investment in community that Comcast is widely known for, Illinois stands to win. Please give this transaction your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Turner".

Arthur Turner
Assistant Majority Leader