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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOEL TORPEY
State Representative
District 29



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August 22, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Nothing is more serious than ensuring every child in every community across the country has access to a great education. I say this as the husband of a public school teacher, as well as a Representative for the 29th District of Missouri. The battle for more education funding continues to play out on all levels of our government, and the participation and sponsorship of companies in the private sector is more important than ever before. Luckily for me, my cable provider, Comcast, has demonstrated a commitment of providing tools to local schoolchildren to help them succeed in the classroom and beyond. My support of the Time Warner Cable/Comcast transaction is primarily for that reason, and I look forward to the endless possibilities a union of these two companies would bring to the Kansas City community.

As technology advances rapidly across the world, it is our children who will be responsible for keeping us current and competitive. We need to be training them now for careers that will help advance these ideas here at home. Missouri schoolchildren are falling behind in the subjects that they need to excel in. In my home school district in Independence, 56.2 percent of local high school students displayed proficiency in science while only 41.9 percent of students were determined proficient in mathematics last year. Our students will not be able to compete on a world stage without strong corporate partners who are willing to support new skills and

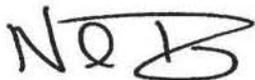
technology programs that will help them improve. My wife, a kindergarten teacher in the Independence School District, believes early childhood education that capitalizes on the latest educational tools will prepare our kids for the brightest futures. Fortunately for us, Comcast has shown a commitment to sponsoring more technology for classrooms and breaking the mold to enhance students' digital literacy.

Internet Essentials, one of Comcast's signature programs, has become the shining example of just how great an impact these public/private partnerships can have. While the material elements of the program are great (home Internet service for \$9.95/month and the option to purchase a heavily-subsidized computer), it's the free digital training options that are the most revolutionary. In my experience, it is extraordinary for a company to use its resources to set up free training centers in local communities to patiently help students and families learn about the Internet.

Comcast also has committed resources to advance learning directly in the classroom through their Digital Connectors program, which provides the facilities for students and young adults to develop their skills in using computers, applications and the Internet. Comcast has given so much to their communities, and they show no signs of slowing down. We should only encourage that kind of corporate citizenship. I have personally engaged in Comcast community projects-I was invited to help hand out 10 \$1,000 scholarships to high school students as part of Comcast's Leaders & Achievers program and I also participated in a community clean-up project through Comcast Cares Day. I cannot think of a better company to partner with as we work to prepare our community for a brighter future.

I encourage the FCC to approve the Time Warner Cable/Comcast transaction to help keep this excellent work moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NOEL TORPEY". The letters are stylized and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Representative Noel Torpey
District 29- Jackson County
State of Missouri