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GREG SMITH

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 writing to voice my support for the Comcast and Time Warner Cable transaction. As both a Kansas State Senator and a working teacher, I know firsthand the importance of investing in education.

My district is currently served by Time Warner Cable. My district would be lucky to be covered by the combined force of Comcast and Time Warner. This kind of investment in the Kansas City metro area would better enable us to engage students in world-class digital advancement that is currently not available with Time Warner Cable alone. Comcast has a proven track record of providing new learning opportunities and digital development through its Internet Essentials program and corporate partnerships.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics - a.k.a STEM - education is widely considered the backbone of 21st-century education. America's students need to be trained with technical skills that

will make them exceptional future workers in the midst of vigorous global competition. Comcast's Digital Connectors program has supplied hundreds of community computer labs and trained countless students on basic digital literacy skills. School districts in my senate district are expanding their technology outreach. The need for increased bandwidth and services will be critical to support this education initiative. We can see the expansive success of the program in a cramped portion of Kansas. Approval of this transaction will give the Digital Connectors program room to breathe in current Time Warner Cable markets -and connect more students than ever.

Too often, children lack access to simple educational necessities. In the year 2014, Internet access is an educational necessity. There is a Digital Divide in this country. Some children stand on one side, and can access a global network of resources and opportunity. Too many children in Kansas and the United States stand on the other side, across a wide chasm from future prosperity.

In addition to its commitment to STEM education, Comcast provides disadvantaged students and eligible families with quality Internet access at an affordable price through its Internet Essentials initiative. If the merger is approved, low income families in our area would be eligible to purchase home Internet service for only \$9.95 per month, access free digital skills training, and have the ability to purchase a subsidized computer. The program has served 1.2 million people so far. This isn't a small-scale or token program. It's a program that would transform our children's futures. I can't miss this opportunity to fight for my constituents and urge your approval of this transaction.

I am encouraged about the educational opportunities of having Comcast as a service provider in Overland Park and a corporate partner to our schools. I ask you to consider all of the potential benefits this combination of companies will bring to my constituents and citizens around the nation. I respectfully ask you to join me in supporting this transaction.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "S".

Sen. Greg Smith

Kansas State Senate, 21st District