



NURTURING
HISPANIC
COMMUNITIES

August 21, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As the President and CEO of the Cuban National Council, Inc., I support Comcast's proposed acquisition of Time Warner Cable.

CNC is a front line community service organization that provides direct human services to needy individuals from diverse racial and ethnic groups with a focus on Hispanics and minorities. While we were founded in the early 1970s to particularly serve Cuban Americans as they transitioned into U.S. life, we now serve all communities and have expanded from basic subsistence issues into broader questions of education, economic opportunity, and social justice.

The proposed combination of Comcast and Time Warner Cable will bring substantial benefits to the communities we serve. As a company with a record of keeping its promises to the Latino community, Comcast has promised to invest hundreds of millions of new dollars a year in improving broadband service in their new markets. This investment will generate powerful economic opportunities and ensure the life-changing power of high-speed Internet access is available to more and more Americans.

The transaction will bring the benefits of Comcast's Internet Essentials program to thousands of additional American families in the newly acquired areas. CNC has worked on digital literacy and broadband adoption with Comcast for years, and I have seen first-hand how affordable home access to the Internet changes lives. Internet Essentials is the most complete and effective program I have ever seen to help needy families get online for the first time, combining affordable service and heavily discounted computer hardware with free digital skills training and powerful learning programs like the Khan Academy. As such, Internet Essentials addresses virtually all the leading obstacles to broadband adoption that experts have identified. If we are going to truly close the digital divide in this country, we need to expand these efforts, as Comcast proposes to do through this transaction.

Comcast has also been a strong supporter of a free and open Internet – which is critical to our democracy and especially to online service organizations like CNC. Expanding this commitment to Time

Warner Cable communities is another valuable public good that will make the Internet stronger and more open for all users if the two companies are permitted to combine.

The biggest criticism I hear about the proposed deal is that it will eliminate competition for cable television. But to me the response that Comcast and Time Warner Cable already operate in different markets makes sense. How can the transaction eliminate a competitor that does not exist today? I would always support more choices for local communities, but that seems like a different issue since this deal does not increase or lessen choice at all.

I understand that the Commission's job is to determine if this proposal serves the public interest. By improving Internet service, expanding net neutrality protections, increasing minority-focused video options, and investing in community development programs, I believe it does.

Sincerely,



Sonia Lopez
President & CEO

SL/jd