



**NORTHLAND REGIONAL
CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

The mission of the

Northland Regional

Chamber of Commerce

is to enhance

the business community,

economic growth

and quality of life

in the Northland.

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August 25, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

This letter is submitted regarding the proposed Comcast/Time Warner Cable transaction. I am the President of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, an organization which serves Clay and Platte counties in the metropolitan Kansas City area. The Northland region covers nearly 300,000 Missourians, nearly 30% of Kansas City's population. The Northland Chamber is one of the largest Chamber organizations in the region with a membership of over 700 businesses and 1,200 representatives.

A primary mission of the Northland Chamber is to provide opportunities for members to market their business through networking, special advertising and business referrals. I believe approval of the proposed transaction would be an important step in helping further each of these goals.

Comcast has invested tens of billions in infrastructure over the last two decades, and has committed to continuing to invest significantly in broadband capacity and other network improvements over the next few years. Approval of the transaction would enable the Time Warner Cable systems, and their subscribers, to benefit from these investments. I understand that Comcast already offers broadband service at substantially faster speeds than Time Warner Cable. The local business community would obviously benefit if it had the opportunity to take advantage of these superior capabilities. Comcast has committed to making these upgrades to the Time Warner Cable systems if the transaction is allowed to move forward.

Comcast is also an industry leader in the area of broadband adoption. I understand that Comcast's Internet Essentials initiative is the nation's largest broadband adoption program, offering affordable, quality Internet access and computers to families with at least one child that qualifies for the National School Lunch Program. This program has a proven track record in providing families first-time access to the benefits of the Internet, and Comcast recently announced that it will extend the initiative indefinitely. Residents of the Northland region would clearly benefit if the Internet Essentials program was made available in their neighborhoods. Local businesses, in turn, would be able to market their services to an expanded, better-informed group of potential customers.



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Finally, the combination of Comcast and Time Warner Cable would result in a much larger service area footprint. The Northland Chamber anticipates that this development would provide the ability to better serve businesses that span multiple geographic areas.

For these reasons, the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce supports approval of the Comcast/Time Warner Cable transaction. We thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

Sheila Tracy
President

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