



People. Progress. Results.

August 23, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are the New Leaders Council. We cultivate and promote a new generation of progressive, civic entrepreneurs through our 31 chapters throughout the country. We work outside the box and outside traditional professional networks to find the best and brightest. Our fellows participate in a diverse and rigorous NLC Institute over a five-month program to become better leaders, advocates and risk-takers in their communities. We are proud to have Comcast as a partner in this important effort.

Attendees of our 2014 national New Leaders Council Leadership Retreat heard from Comcast Executive VP David Cohen as our keynote speaker. His passion for the issues and commitment of giving back to communities was a powerful message to our community.

Economic inequality is a huge concern for our young leaders and Comcast's Internet Essentials initiative is the sort of model program that can bridge the divide. To our knowledge, Essentials is our country's largest broadband adoption program. Families whose kids participate in the National School Lunch Program can be eligible to subscribe. They receive discounted residential Internet service, computer hardware, and free training programs in their neighborhoods. The program has already been met with wild success in just 3 years of operation. Over 1.4 million families have connected. Residents of many of our largest cities cannot yet take advantage of this program. Your approval of the Comcast-Time Warner could extend this innovative and transformative program to urban centers like Los Angeles, Houston, and New York – all places we have NLC chapters.

Our civically-engaged, forward-thinking young people need supportive, innovative public and private partners to change our communities for the better. Comcast is the type of civically entrepreneurial corporation in the best spirit of our Council's commitment to innovation. We therefore write to you today to respectfully urge your approval of the proposed Comcast-Time Warner transaction.

Thank you,

Mark Riddle
Executive Director
New Leaders Council