

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Received & Inspected



August 20, 2014

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Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

FCC Mail Room

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RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In my more than 40 years of service to the City of Richmond, California, I have sought to build a better community for today and the future. I have tirelessly advocated on behalf of growth and development through partnerships between the public and private sector.

As a Councilman and former Mayor, I write in support of the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable because Comcast has always been a valued partner and good corporate citizen in our community.

When the company acquired cable systems in Northern California from AT&T over a decade ago, Silicon Valley, the most technologically advanced part of the world, had an Internet network that was years out of date. Comcast spent over \$1 billion to upgrade the cable lines. But while the company's investment in technology is impressive, even more significant is Comcast's investment in our community.

The Internet Essentials program has provided tremendous benefits for families in Richmond. The program, which was launched by Comcast in 2011, allows low-income families to sign up for Internet access for less than \$10 per month. What that means for these families is that their children, who before were left on the sidelines, can now participate fully in our new economy.

Over 35,000 families have signed up for Internet Essentials in the parts of California where Comcast operates. The nationwide program has brought over 1.4 million individuals up to speed. If the transaction is approved, Comcast will expand the Internet Essentials program into areas in which it acquires Time Warner Cable systems and enable many more to take advantage of the opportunity to get online.

I support the proposed transaction because Comcast is a good partner for our community and I want to see them continue their work here and in many locations elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Bates, Senior Councilmember  
and former Mayor

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