

September 4, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Presentation, *Applications of Comcast Corp. and Time Warner Cable Inc. for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations*, MB Docket No. 14-57**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 3, 2014, David Leavy, Chief Communications Officer and SEVP, Corporate Marketing and Affairs at Discovery Communications, Inc. (“Discovery”), Derek Ludwin of Covington and Burling, LLP, and the undersigned, on behalf of Discovery, met with Hillary Burchuk, Joel Rabinovitz, Jim Bird, Jamillia Ferris, and Virginia Metallo of the Office of General Counsel; Bill Lake, Adam Copeland, Sarah Whitesell, Ty Bream, Jeffrey Neumann, Wayne T. McKee, Jessica Campbell, Jake Riehm, Marcia Glauberman, and Hillary DeNigro (by phone) of the Media Bureau; Michelle Schaefer, Tavi Carare, Bill Dever, and Eric Ralph of the Wireline Competition Bureau; Tim Brennan, Chief Economist, and Elizabeth Andrión and Paul LaFontaine of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis; Linda Pintro of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; and William Rogerson, Senior Economist (by phone) to express concern that the proposed merger of Comcast Corporation (“Comcast”) and Time Warner Cable, Inc. (“TWC”) could result in lower quality, less diverse programming, and fewer independent voices among programmers.

Discovery representatives discussed a number of critical issues the Commission should pay careful attention to as it considers whether the proposed merger is in the public interest. A “must have” multichannel video programming distributor (“MVPD”) like post-merger Comcast – one that will control a very significant percentage of the MVPD market – could:

- use its enhanced position to impose prices, terms and conditions on programmers that are overly favorable to the MVPD;
- impose broader “most favored nation” (“MFN”) clauses in agreements with programmers;



- interfere with the developing use of alternative content viewing devices and services;
- obtain an unfair information advantage over programmers in carriage negotiations and in the advertising realm by refusing to share set-top-box data with programmers; and
- exercise substantial control over both the national and local ad sales markets, to the detriment of programmers seeking to capture a share of that market.

Pursuant to section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed electronically with the Office of the Secretary and served electronically on the Commission participants in the meeting.

Should there be any questions regarding these matters, please contact the undersigned at 240.662.3135 or [catherine\\_carroll@discovery.com](mailto:catherine_carroll@discovery.com).

Respectfully Submitted,



Catherine Carroll  
Vice President – Public Policy &  
Corporate/Government Affairs

cc: Hillary Burchuk  
Joel Rabinovitz  
Jim Bird  
Jamillia Ferris  
Virginia Metallo  
Bill Lake  
Adam Copeland  
Sarah Whitesell  
Ty Bream  
Jeffrey Neumann  
Wayne T. McKee  
Jessica Campbell  
Jake Riehm  
Marcia Glauberman  
Hillary DeNigro  
Michelle Schaefer  
Tavi Carare  
Bill Dever  
Eric Ralph  
Tim Brennan  
Elizabeth Andrion  
Paul LaFontaine  
Linda Pintro  
William Rogerson