



VIA ECFS

October 13, 2015

Hon. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Applications of Charter Communications, Inc., Time Warner Cable Inc., and Advance/Newhouse Partnership for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, MB Docket No. 15-149.*

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

Connect Ohio is a non-profit initiative dedicated to promoting and advancing the access, adoption, and use of broadband technology in the Buckeye State. Since 2007, we have been working directly with communities, the public sector, and the private sector to close broadband adoption and access gaps in Ohio.

In Ohio, we are keenly aware that closing these gaps requires targeted, on-the-ground initiatives. Our Every Community Online program, funded by the State of Ohio and a National Telecommunications and Information Administration sustainable broadband adoption grant, worked with over 400 community anchor institutions to train more than 43,000 Ohioans in Internet use, and distributed 1,763 public computer workstations. Similarly, in 24 months, our Connect Appalachian Broadband Initiative, a public-private partnership, expanded broadband access in eastern Ohio to 30,000 homes and helped increase broadband adoption in the region from 53% to 63%.

Even with this progress, the broadband adoption gap for low-income Ohioans is large—only 56% of low-income Ohioans have adopted broadband, compared to 76% statewide. Connect Ohio welcomes the proposal by Charter, Time Warner, and Bright House Networks to extend Bright House's low-cost broadband adoption program to the entire merged company's footprint. We estimate that there are over 935,000 households in the proposed New Charter broadband footprint in Ohio with household income of less than \$25,000 per year. These households would benefit greatly were a targeted, low-cost broadband offer be made available to them.

Connect Ohio's parent company, Connected Nation, has filed a letter in this proceeding describing the potential public interest benefits of the proposed adoption program. Connect Ohio strongly agrees with this filing and urges the Commission to take those benefits into consideration in its review.

Sincerely,

S/Lindsay Shanahan

Lindsay Shanahan
Executive Director
Connect Ohio