Attorney General Eric Holder
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 8, 2014

Dear Attorney General Holder and Chairman Wheeler:

The proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger would give one company enormous power over our nation's media and communications infrastructure. This massive consolidation would position Comcast as our communications gatekeeper, giving it the power to dictate the future of numerous industries across the Internet, television and telecommunications landscape.

In the last four years, Comcast has raised its basic cable rates in some of its markets by nearly 70 percent, while Time Warner Cable has actually cut costs for consumers. But the higher prices and reduced choices that this deal would bring are just the tip of the iceberg.

This merger is, at its core, about broadband, the most profitable and fastest-growing segment of the cable industry. Comcast's service area would cover almost two-thirds of the U.S., and it would be the only broadband provider that could deliver truly high-speed Internet and pay-TV services to nearly four out of every 10 U.S. homes. This union would give Comcast control over half of the nation's next-generation broadband customers and more than half of the pay-TV/Internet-bundled subscribers.

The open Internet brings the promise of meaningful competition as it greatly reduces the gatekeeper power that incumbent cable, broadcasting and studio giants like Comcast-NBCUniversal have historically wielded. But this merger — taking place in the vacuum of regulatory oversight of our broadband-communications market — would give Comcast unprecedented control over the Internet. It would also pose a grave threat to media diversity.

Comcast has repeatedly flexed its corporate and political muscles to get what it wants, even if that has meant harming competition, consumers and communities. Around the country Comcast has fought community efforts to bridge the digital divide with municipal broadband networks. It has lobbied statehouses and local governments to undermine public, educational and government access television. It has blocked its customers' Internet traffic. And it was fined for failing to fulfill the commitments it made to secure approval of its merger with NBCUniversal.

The Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger would give Comcast unthinkable gatekeeper power over our commercial, social and civic lives. Everyone from the biggest business to the smallest startup, from elected officials to everyday people, would have to cross through Comcast's gates.

Given these clear and present dangers and the complete lack of any tangible benefits, it's clear that the union of the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 cable companies is not good for competition or in the public interest. We, the undersigned, representing millions of people from every state, urge you to block this merger.

Sincerely,

Access Humboldt
Alliance for Communications Democracy

Appalshop, Inc.
Austin Airwaves
Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County
California Common Cause
Cambridge Community Television
Center for Media Justice
Chicago Media Action
Citizens for Sanity, Inc.
ColorOfChange
Committee for Media Access
Community Media Visioning
Consumers Union
Courage Campaign
CREDO
Daily Kos
Demand Progress
Fight for the Future
Free Press
Future of Music Coalition
Harry Potter Alliance
Holiday Design Group
Independent Arts & Media
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
International Campaign for Responsible Technology
Journalism That Matters, Inc.
Media Alliance
Media Literacy Project
Media Mobilizing Project
Media Working Group, Inc.
MoveOn.org
National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture
National Headquarters Studio
National Organization for Women
New America Foundation
OpenMedia.org
Parents Television Council
Personal Democracy Media
PhillyCAM
Presente.org
Prometheus Radio Project
Public Knowledge
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters' Leadership Council
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa
Sports Fans Coalition
St. Paul Neighborhood Network
SumOfUs.org
TheUptake.org
TURN — The Utility Reform Network
Women In Media & News
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press
Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University
Writers Guild of America East
Writers Guild of America West