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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

August 25, 2014

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

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

We write regarding the Federal Communications Commission deliberation on the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable. Enhancing our economic competitiveness and ability to support innovation in every part of Colorado are key reasons why we take interest in this deliberation. We fully understand the complexity and the controversy that is inherent in this decision.

Over the past several years, Colorado's reputation as a leading technology state has been driven, in part, by growth in broadband availability. We have worked hard to make Colorado investment-ready through common sense updates in our state laws and regulatory framework. We appreciate the cooperation with our federal and private partners to work toward our goal of ubiquitous adoption of, and access to, adequate broadband services in urban and rural areas of our state.

Our proactive and collaborative work with private sector partners like Comcast has helped us become a global hub for technological innovation and entrepreneurship. This is underscored by the astounding growth of e-commerce across the state and the presence of organizations such as the Silicon Flatirons Center at the University of Colorado -- now the nation's pre-eminent technology, research and entrepreneurship center.

We know from experience that broadband is an economic multiplier for almost every aspect of our state's economy. This is why we value both past and future investments by our private sector partners. While there are several companies making sizeable investments in the provision of broadband, we acknowledge Comcast as among the strongest leaders in building out Colorado's broadband infrastructure.

We value the importance of an open Internet and believe that it is critical to balance the goals of protecting consumers with the open Internet principles of transparency and non-discriminatory access to online services and sites while realizing the potential consumer benefits of the merger.

These goals are important to maintaining an Internet that continues to spur innovation through organic methods and ensure fair competition.

Both our public and private partners value these principles and we are pleased to see that Comcast has honored the FCC's Open Internet protections since its acquisition of NBC Universal.

We have also seen first-hand Comcast's commitment to helping to advance access to online services for those on the wrong side of the digital divide. Comcast's Internet Essentials program today connects more than 14,000 low-income Colorado families to the broadband Internet and provides these families with the digital literacy training that is critical to their education and professional advancement in the 21st century economy.

Importantly, the proposed merger can enable Comcast to extend these critically important broadband adoption and other community-building initiatives here in Colorado and elsewhere around the country.

We encourage Comcast's continued success, and we support its continued investment in our state and elsewhere. As the FCC reviews the proposed merger, we are hopeful that it finds an appropriate balance that maximizes the public benefits that our private partners provide, while maintaining an open Internet that will continue to advance economic and innovation opportunities in our state and elsewhere.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor