

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock  
GOVERNOR



Mike Cooney  
LT. GOVERNOR

October 06, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write to express my support for the transfer of three of Charter's 700 MHz licenses to T-Mobile and for the waiver petition to extend the buildout requirements associated with these licenses.

The unique topography, low-density population and extreme weather conditions in Montana and Wyoming make it hard for companies to provide telecommunications services to our residents. As a result, there are too few providers in our states offering too little on the way of advance telecommunications services.

We appreciate that Charter has taken steps towards using this spectrum, but appreciate – and, indeed, welcome their changed strategy involving the use of high-frequency spectrum. T-Mobile is in a far better position to use this 700 MHz spectrum to provide our residents with much-needed telecommunications services. Granting the license transfer and extension request would allow T-Mobile to move quickly to provide service to 35% of the license areas within one year and to 70% of the license areas by 2019.

T-Mobile states in its filings to you that without the requested waiver or extension, it could not meet the existing buildout deadlines and is therefore unwilling to purchase the licenses. The filing states that it is unlikely that Charter (or, indeed, anyone) would be able to meet the deadline—postponing for years any use of the spectrum. This would be a tragic outcome for the citizens of Montana and Wyoming, and, as such, we implore you to grant these requests as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor