

For Immediate Release

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## **COMPTEL Opposes Charter-Time Warner Cable Merger**

### **Competitive Networks Association Warns Video and Interconnection Issues will harm Broadband Competition and Investment**

Washington DC (October 14, 2015) – COMPTEL, the competitive networks association, filed a petition to deny today with the Federal Communications Commission in opposition of the proposed merger between Charter-Time Warner Cable/Bright House.

Stressing the need to address the costs of video programming in order to incentivize broadband competition, COMPTEL argues that proposed Charter –Time Warner Cable merger is bad for broadband competition and bad for consumers.

Warning that New Charter will have increased market power as a buyer of video programming for 17.3 million customers, COMPTEL states, “the proposed merger represents retrenchment—not competition—and would serve as a significant new barrier to expanded future broadband competition.”

A copy of the COMPTEL filing to the FCC can be found [here](#):

<http://www.comptel.org/Files/filings/2015/10-14-15%20COMPTEL's%20Petition%20%20to%20Deny%20Charter-Time%20Warner%20Cable%20Merger.pdf>.

COMPTEL believes Charter has failed to see the intertwined relationship between access to video content and broadband competition. For most competitive service providers, the increasingly high cost of video programming is a principal barrier to broadband investment.

“To win customers and support the investment in their existing and future networks, broadband providers today must offer subscribers access to linear video programming,” the filing states.

In July, COMPTEL was initially encouraged by Charter’s commitment to a bill-and-keep style Internet interconnection policy. However, the company has since failed to widely implement and clarify this policy in the marketplace. To ensure that over-the-top video competition is not harmed and has an opportunity to fully develop, COMPTEL believes the commitment to interconnection must extend a full seven-year period.

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