

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 23, 2015

Spencer Woodman  
523 5<sup>th</sup> Street, #4R  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Re: public records request

Dear Mr. Woodman,

Attached please find records in response to your public records act request dated January 18, 2015. Certain communications have been copied from our electronic management system for constituent correspondence.

There is no charge for this request.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM'.

Jessica Mishaan  
Paralegal

Enclosure

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 20, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write today in support of approval by the Commission of the proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable transaction.

Comcast began operating in Vermont in 2006 when it acquired the Adelpia Cable system. Vermont had experienced regulatory difficulties with Adelpia and the state was initially wary of the ambitious proposals made by Comcast as successor in interest to Adelpia. Accordingly, the state set high standards for Comcast and we held them to those standards. Among the conditions imposed Comcast was an obligation to expand broadband to some of our most rural areas. Eight years later, I am pleased to report that Comcast has delivered on the promise and has invested nearly \$128 million in our state. This money has extended high speed infrastructure from our region's population hub in Burlington, to Brattleboro in the south and to Newport in the north.

That sort of investment allows our residents a greater stake in the global economy. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Internet connects Vermonters to jobs, healthcare information, and education they need to succeed within their communities and around the world. This infrastructure, combined with Comcast's low-income broadband adoption program, Internet Essentials, will help further close the Digital Divide.

I have treated broadband service with an all-of-the-above approach, working with many private carriers, including Comcast, to empower all of Vermont's residents to access opportunities and achieve, no matter if they are rich or poor, urban or rural. This is key to expanding economic growth for all Vermonters.

I look forward to Comcast's continued investment in my state and expect that your approval of this transaction would enhance Comcast's commitment to continue working to bring services to low-income and rural Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 20, 2014

Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to inform you of my support of approval by the Commission of the proposed Comcast-Time Warner Cable transaction. Please find enclosed my comments submitted to the Office of the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission.

If I may provide you with additional information, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal dotted line.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor

cc.: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly

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**From:** Green, Geoff  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2014 4:37 PM  
**To:** Allen, Susan; Carrier, Janis; Kunin, Lisa; London, Sarah; Richards, Alyson; Spaulding, Susan; Trombley, Shana; Spaulding, Jeb; Johnson, Harriet; Miller, Elizabeth; GPS; Mishaan, Jessica; Coriell, Scott; Gray, Laura; Miller, Lawrence  
**Subject:** Daily Report 8/29-9/2

-135 Signatures on an online petition asking the Governor's Office to force First Wind to buyout the Therrien property in the NEK (The family that's upset with the wind turbines, feels they are too close to their house; hard to tell how many people are VTers, very limited contact info, and anybody worldwide can sign it)

-14 post cards concerned about Lake Carmi and asking for enforcement of laws surrounding farmers and pollution

-3 calls and 2 emails with concerns related to Vermont Health Connect

-3 emails and 1 call supporting marijuana legalization

-3 emails upset with the letter from Governor supporting Comcast/Time Warner merger

-2 emails encouraging further addiction treatment initiatives

-1 email upset with VGS pipeline

-1 email with concerns about property taxes

-1 call upset with Fairpoint customer service/overall functionality

-1 email supporting implementation of limits on carbon pollution

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Geoff Green  
Office of the Governor  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609

Comcast/ Time Warner Merger emails received 9/2/14

Email #1

Sad that you are supporting the merger between Comcast and Time Warner, this truly shows how out of touch with reality you really are. I do hope you lose this election. We need new blood, not people like you who are unfortunately clueless on what it is like to struggle in today's economy. You are out of touch with so much. Sad, all you can see is the green \$\$\$\$ signs popping in your eyes.

ah, that's right, Jeremy Dodge, is all I need to say! That is where you showed your true colors.

Email #2

would like to say how disappointed I am with you regarding saying nice things about Comcast. Our should be ashamed of yourself taking their money. You know how bad of a company they are. I will not forget this when it comes time to vote. This company is the worst kind of company, they could CARE LESS that you feel they did a good bringing broadband to the state, because that is a lie. You now that they wouldn't have done anything without the state providing funds to pay for those upgrades. How out of touch are you with your constituents.

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Email #3

I was aghast to read that you supported Comcast's merger with Time Warner.

My concern lies in the danger that media oligopoly poses when it comes to Freedom of the Press. Media ownership in this nation has been reduced to a dangerously small group of individuals and when you support the merger of two large companies, you are supporting something that is at its very essence, dangerous to democracy.

The FCC has been supporting corporations above democracy ever since G.W. Bush got in office. Look at the history of what the Republican controlled FCC tried to do and was turned back by the U.S. Supreme Court! We marched to war with Iraq at a time when there was clear evidence that there were no weapons of mass destruction, but there was a carrot being dangled in front of all the media giants for more media ownership. As that carrot was dangled, we heard only sound bites fed to the media by the Bush Administration about the

existence of WMD - not the lack of existence which was the truth. Those who knew were silenced and discredited by the administration and the media jumped on the stories to discredit unquestioningly. Even Colin Powell was duped into reporting to the UN with erroneous information - the same junk fed to the press. The American Public did not hear the facts about the existence weapons of mass destruction from the media. The result was this country marching unquestioningly to war. The carrot? The FCC was proposing increasing ownership in one media form from 35% to 45% of all media forms in a market area. A company that owned TV or Radio or Newspaper would be able to own all three media forms AND 10% more market share in one market area according to the proposed FCC changes.

Ask yourself what kind of power an investigative reporter would have in getting an important story out to the public if it impacted ad revenues and the media management silenced the story? With that kind of media ownership, real investigative reporters could easily find themselves blackballed from employment if their investigations were critical of large advertising accounts.

There were independent reporters who were putting out well researched stories about the lack of weapons of mass destruction, and the stories were either not published in the major news outlets, or were buried so deep in papers that they were read by few. They should have been front page news. The result was that the nation was plunged into war, we lost and crippled thousands of our own, and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens, cost the nation hundreds of billions of dollars, and grew our national debt to astronomical levels -all because investigative reporting which is the very essence and reason for the Freedom of the Press was squashed in favor of corporate profits.

Freedom of the press is critically important to this nation and we will not have it with oligopolies.

Media ownership and internet access pose the most significant risks to democracy and must be carefully monitored to insure that we have competition and equal access with internet.

If broadband access is a critical issue to you, make cell phone and internet access an issue of eminent domain for the state. The coverage could be put in more cheaply and we would gain competition in this state which is needed badly.

Response from the Governor sent 9/22/14:

Thank you for contacting me, and for sharing your concerns about Comcast merging with Time Warner Cable. I appreciate your thoughts about how this may affect Vermont, and wanted to share with you the letter I wrote to the FCC in support of the merger.

When I took office, my priority was to create jobs and grow economic opportunity for Vermonters. We have made real progress towards this goal, and the expansion of our broadband infrastructure has played an instrumental role in supporting economic growth in Vermont. Using regulatory requirements to help drive that expansion, as occurred in the Comcast acquisition of Adelphia, has been key to our progress. Several commercial broadband providers have helped increase access to high speed broadband in Vermont, including Comcast. My letter confirms that Comcast met its significant regulatory requirements here in the Adelphia acquisition, and suggests that the FCC require meaningful expansion of rural broadband services in any merger approval.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me. Please find attached the letter I wrote to the FCC. If I can be of assistance in the future, please don't hesitate to me.

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