New York State Public Service Commission Agency Building 3 Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12223

Re: <u>Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") between Charter Communications, Inc.</u>

("Charter") and the New York State Department of Public Service (the "Department")

and the New York State Public Service Commission (the "Commission")

Dear Commissioners:

We jointly present this cover letter in connection with our submission of the Agreement (a copy of which is enclosed) to the Commission, for its review, and consideration for approval and adoption.

As you know and as further set forth in detail in the Agreement, Charter, the Department and the Commission have been in dispute, for some time, regarding the meaning and application of the network expansion condition in the 2016 Order approving the company's merger with Time Warner Cable, Inc. The network expansion condition required Charter to expand its network to pass 145,000 unserved and underserved homes within New York State (hereinafter the "Network Expansion Condition").

The Agreement sets forth a negotiated resolution of those disputes by modifying the Network Expansion Condition to achieve important state objectives. Charter and the Department believe that this action is an important step forward in making high-speed broadband available to all New Yorkers. It allows the parties to move forward with the critical work of expanding access to broadband, by resolving their disagreements without the need for costly litigation. As a result, Charter will invest even more money in New York State than originally planned, bringing the educational, economic and social benefits of high-speed broadband to areas where access is often limited.

Under the Agreement, among other things:

- Charter will continue to invest in network expansion to bring high speed broadband to tens of thousands of unserved and underserved residential and business addresses; including 145,000 addresses entirely in upstate New York.
- This expansion will be completed by September 30, 2021, in accordance with a
 schedule providing frequent interim milestone requirements, with corresponding
 reporting and accountability, including processes and procedures to ensure
 proper oversight, and monitoring of progress by the Department and compliance
 by Charter.
- It also will include Charter's agreement over and above its undertaking at the time of its original entry into the State to spend \$12 million for broadband expansion projects at locations to be selected by the Department and the Broadband Program Office.

As the result of this Agreement, the Department estimates that Charter will need to spend more than two times the amount originally estimated by the Commission as the public benefit value of the network expansion condition, and will bring high-speed broadband to more than 145,000 homes and businesses in Upstate New York. Coupled with Charter's deployment of faster broadband speeds in New York State since and as a result of the commitments it made in the merger, this infusion of resources will ensure that even more homes and businesses in our state have access to high-speed broadband.

This Agreement does not constitute a finding or admission of any violation by Charter nor does it constitute a penalty or forfeiture under the New York State Public Service Law.

In accordance with the Agreement, there will be a public comment period and we therefore respectfully request an extension of pending deadlines in this case to account for such period, after which time we respectfully urge your issuance of an order incorporating the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam E. Falk, Senior Vice President

State Government Affairs Charter Communications, Inc.

601 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Suite 400W

Washington, D.C. 20001

Graham Jesmer, Assistant Counsel

New York State Department of Public Service

Agency Building 3

Empire State Plaza

Albany, NY 12223

Encl.