



February 24, 2023

TO: Adam Falk - Senior Vice President, Charter Communications

CC: Melinda Kinney - Regional Sr. Director, Charter Communications
Kate Gore - Director State Government Affairs, Charter Communications
Andrew Butcher - President, Maine Connectivity Authority

RE: Response to February 9, 2023 Letter to MCA Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Falk,

This letter is in response to your February 9, 2023 letter on behalf of Spectrum Northeast, LLC ("Spectrum"), a subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter") requesting that the Board of the Maine Connectivity Authority ("MCA" or "the Authority") reconsider its January 20, 2023 vote to award a [Connect The Ready Grant](#) to Consolidated Communications to provide service to the Town of Skowhegan and Madison, and not award a grant to Matrix Design Group with the Town of Wilton. For the reasons stated below the Authority has determined that the information provided by Charter does not provide a sufficient basis to reconsider the awards.

The maps accompanying Charter's February 9th letter materially overstate the availability of broadband service in Skowhegan and Wilton, and contradict information previously provided to the FCC by Charter. Specifically, the maps claim near universal service by relying on deprecated FCC Form 477 data which inaccurately depicts unserved locations as served.¹ With the adoption of the Broadband DATA Act, and the FCC's subsequent orders establishing the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) system, the FCC has required more precise location-specific broadband deployment data that more accurately depicts service availability.² In June of 2022 the Authority adopted data filing requirements that mirrored the FCC's, and made eligibility for the Connect The Ready Program contingent on providing this information.

Unfortunately both Charter and Bee Line have consistently declined to provide the MCA with the more detailed network information provided to the FCC, a trend which the February 9 letter continues. The Authority was ultimately able to attain more accurate data regarding Charter's service directly from the FCC in late November 2022. This data shows what the maps provided in

¹ The Form 477 data measures broadband availability at the census block level, and designates an entire census block as served if only one subscriber within that block has access to service.

² On December 8, 2022, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an [Order](#) officially sunseting the Form 477 broadband data reporting. The FCC's action is consistent with its obligation to reform the Form 477 data collection process under the provisions of the Broadband DATA Act. The Order became effective on publication in the Federal Register on December 16th, 2022.



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your letter do not: that a substantial number of homes in Skowhegan and Wilton are not currently served by Bee Line Cable, and that many locations would remain un- or underserved even assuming that all of Bee Line's existing network were upgraded to higher speed offerings.

The MCA welcomes the potential for upgrades to Bee Line's cable and broadband network if the Charter's acquisition is completed as described in your letter. Private investments such as these will play a critical role in helping Maine achieve its goal of universal access to affordable broadband service. Once the transaction is complete, we look forward to learning more regarding the specific timeline and specifications for these upgrades.

Moving forward, MCA staff is developing a methodology for including internet service providers' definitive future build plans into its mapping and grant making process. Assuming that Charter is comfortable sharing data in a suitable format, these future builds can be integrated into that process. In the interim, we will continue to collaborate with Charter's Maine team to obtain the data necessary to evaluate Charter's active Reach Me Line Extension proposals, and learn more about future upgrades.

Sincerely,

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

Tim Schneider, Chair - Board of Directors