



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

November 19, 2025

Ellen Golde, Division Administrative Clerk  
Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Support for the Proposed Transfer Involving Cox Communications and Charter Communications

Dear Ms. Golde,

I write in support of the proposed transfer involving Cox Communications (“Cox”) and Charter Communications (“Charter”) currently under review by the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

Cox has long been a trusted corporate partner in Rhode Island, providing reliable broadband service, investing in local philanthropy and community initiatives, and employing hundreds of Rhode Islanders in good, family-sustaining jobs. The proposed transaction offers an opportunity to build on that strong foundation through the scale, investment, and innovation Charter brings to the table.

I met directly with representatives of both Charter and Cox to better understand what impact the proposed transfer may have on the consumers and workers of Rhode Island. Based on the information shared with my office, I am encouraged by the company’s commitments to:

- maintain a strong operational and workforce presence in Rhode Island to ensure continuity of service;
- extend Charter’s workforce benefits—such as a \$20 minimum wage, tuition coverage, and employee stock purchase programs—to Cox employees;
- establish a new \$50 million charitable foundation dedicated to community investment across the company’s footprint; and
- enhance broadband affordability and service quality for Rhode Island customers, while offering continuity for those who wish to maintain their existing plans.

These commitments align closely with my office’s priorities around economic opportunity, workforce development, and digital inclusion. I believe this transaction will help strengthen Rhode Island’s broadband infrastructure and ensure that residents and businesses alike have access to reliable, affordable connectivity in the years ahead.

As a rule, I am skeptical of corporate consolidation in any industry. However, given that Charter does not currently operate in Rhode Island, it is my belief that this change will not meaningfully reduce the number of options available to our state’s consumers. I also appreciate that Cox and Charter have

acknowledged the importance of maintaining a healthy, competitive broadband market in Rhode Island. Meaningful competition drives better service, fairer pricing, and continued innovation for consumers. The company's stated commitment to operating transparently and responsibly within that competitive environment will be essential to ensuring Rhode Islanders continue to benefit from choice and value in the marketplace.

Finally, in reviewing the docket for this proposed transfer, I became aware of the Motion to Intervene filed by Rhode Island PBS. I share their concerns about sustaining our public access television channels. Public access is a vital tool which amplifies the voices of underserved communities and provides free training opportunities in valuable video production skills. Funding it through increasingly high fees for a shrinking number of cable subscribers, the majority of whom are senior citizens, is not viable. I believe that this issue should be examined on a separate docket which includes the state's other cable providers. Separate from the Division's consideration of this transfer or any future dockets, I encourage all involved parties to come to the table and negotiate in good faith a proposal to create a sustainable funding model for public access television in Rhode Island.

After careful consideration of these issues, I respectfully submit my support for the proposed transfer. I thank the Division for its consideration, and I encourage you to reach out to my office at any time if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Rhode Island