



## OPASTCO

**ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF SMALL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES**

March 2, 2010

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights  
U.S. Senate  
308 Hart  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kohl:

The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) has grave concerns about Comcast's proposed acquisition of NBC-Universal. This is a critical issue that could affect our country's ability to achieve universal, high-speed broadband access for consumers everywhere.

OPASTCO represents more than 500 small, independently owned, local communications companies and cooperatives in 47 states, and collectively serve more than five million customers. Our members provide wireline and wireless telecommunications, cable and broadband Internet service.

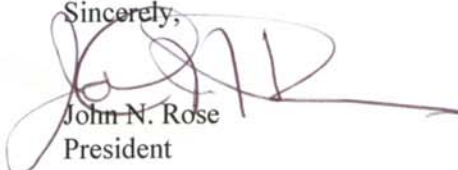
Our primary goal is to ensure universal, high-speed broadband access. In order to meet this goal, broadband must be as valuable as possible for consumers, so that the number of broadband subscribers increases throughout the country. NBC's handling of Olympic coverage, requiring visitors to validate that they have a cable, satellite or IPTV provider before allowing access to content, discriminates against consumers and reduces the value of their broadband connections.

Consumer discrimination should not be allowed in any form. If the merger is approved, it could provide Comcast with additional ability and incentive to engage in more anti-consumer discrimination against video and broadband competitors. This would impede broadband deployment and adoption, and should therefore be mitigated in any merger agreement.

Ensuring that consumers get the highest possible value from their broadband connections is a critical issue that must be addressed if our country is to benefit from the digital economy. An early step to keep content discrimination out of current and future business models is to take a stand with the Comcast-NBC merger.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John N. Rose  
President

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