

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

January 11, 2016

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: License Application for the FASTER Submarine Cable System,
File No SCL-LIC-20150626-00015;
License Application for the Monet Submarine Cable System, File
No SCL-LIC-20150408-00008**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, I write to add the Chamber's support for submarine cable landing license applications for the FASTER cable that would connect the United States with Japan and Taiwan, and the Monet cable that would connect the United States with Brazil. Each of these submarine cable license applications would provide critical connectivity between the United States and key trading partners, growing the U.S. economy and promoting competition and continuity in the delivery of U.S.-international telecommunications and information services.

Submarine cables form the backbone of the Internet and global e-commerce. Submarine cables carry more than 95 percent of transoceanic voice and data communication and have therefore been designated by the U.S. Government as critical communications infrastructure. U.S. telecommunications and technology companies have worked to expand significantly the circuit capacity of submarine cables landing in the United States in order to meet exploding consumer demand for data, particularly on mobile devices. This demand shows no signs of slowing. For example, a recent global bandwidth forecast published by TeleGeography estimates that trans-Pacific capacity demand will increase at a compounded annual rate of 33

percent between 2013 and 2020. For its part, South America's online population is growing more quickly than that of any other global region.

New submarine cables like the proposed FASTER and Monet systems are vital to the continued growth of U.S. commerce. With landings in Japan, Taiwan, and Brazil, the FASTER and Monet cables would connect U.S. businesses with three of the top trading partners of the United States. FASTER and Monet would therefore support the expansion of U.S. trade, particularly in key markets, by facilitating high-speed communications with partners, investors, and employees.

As U.S. information technology companies expand their cutting-edge service offerings in the United States, Asia, and South America they rely increasingly on large amounts of capacity to carry Internet traffic. Cloud services, for instance, demand very large amounts of capacity on submarine cable systems. While the United States is presently the largest regional market for cloud services, both the Asia-Pacific region and South America are among the fastest-growing cloud services markets. Submarine cables will help deliver the capacity that U.S. companies need to remain leaders in the development and delivery of cloud services.

In addition to growing demand for cloud services, Asian and South American Internet users demand access to U.S. content, much of which is still stored in the United States. According to the Internet Society, there are more than one billion Internet users in Central and East Asia alone. These submarine cables would also serve the interests of U.S. content providers by ensuring that foreign consumers and businesses have access to U.S. content, particularly on their mobile devices.

FASTER and Monet would additionally compete vigorously with other oceanic cable systems and carriers, increasing competition. The Chamber anticipates that such competition would lower prices for the inputs for vital telecommunications and information technology services in the United States, promoting U.S. competitiveness.

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter and urges prompt and favorable consideration on the FASTER and Monet applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" clearly visible.

R. Bruce Josten