

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS INC /MO/

Form S-1/A

March 10, 2005

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 10, 2005

Registration No. 333-121136

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 2

to

Form S-1

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Charter Communications, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its Charter)

Delaware
*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

4841
*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

43-1857213
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)*

**12405 POWERSCOURT DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63131
(314) 965-0555**

*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code,
of registrant principal executive offices)*

Curtis S. Shaw, Esq.

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

**12405 Powerscourt Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63131
(314) 965-0555**

*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

Copies to:

**Alvin G. Segel, Esq.
Irell & Manella LLP
1800 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 900
Los Angeles, California 90067-4276
(310) 277-1010**

**Jeremy W. Dickens
Brian A. Haskel
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
767 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10153
(212) 310-8000**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box.

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If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MARCH 10, 2005

PROSPECTUS

150,000,000 Shares

Charter Communications, Inc.

Class A Common Stock

\$ _____ per share

The shares of our Class A common stock offered hereby are shares that we will loan to Citigroup Global Markets Limited, as borrower, through Citigroup Global Markets Inc., as agent, pursuant to a share lending agreement.

Our Class A common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol CHTR. The last reported sale price of our Class A common stock on the Nasdaq National Market on March 8, 2005 was \$1.65 per share.

Investing in our Class A common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 9.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Public Offering Price	\$	\$

Under the share lending agreement, we will receive a loan fee of \$.001 for each share that we lend. We have been advised by Citigroup Global Markets Limited that it, or its affiliates, intend(s) to use the proceeds from the sales of the shares of our Class A common stock offered pursuant to this prospectus to facilitate transactions by which investors in our 5.875% convertible senior notes due 2009 issued on November 22, 2004 will hedge their investments in the 5.875% convertible notes. See Share Lending Agreement and Underwriting on pages 166 and 169, respectively, of this prospectus. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of Class A common stock in this offering.

The underwriter expects to deliver the shares to purchasers on or about _____, 2005.

Citigroup

, 2005

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DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, regarding, among other things, our plans, strategies and prospects, both business and financial. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in or suggested by these forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or realize these plans, intentions or expectations. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Many of the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus may be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as believe, expect, anticipate, should, planned, will, may, intend, estimated and potential, among others. Important factors that results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make in this prospectus are set forth in this prospectus and in other reports or documents that we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and include, but are not limited to:

our ability to sustain and grow revenues and cash flows from operating activities by offering video, high-speed data, telephony and other services and to maintain a stable customer base, particularly in the face of increasingly aggressive competition from other service providers;

the availability of funds to meet interest payment obligations under our debt and to fund our operations and necessary capital expenditures, either through cash flows from operating activities, further borrowings or other sources;

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our ability to comply with all covenants in our indentures and credit facilities, any violation of which would result in a violation of the applicable facility or indenture and could trigger a default of other obligations under cross-default provisions;

our ability to pay or refinance debt as it becomes due;

the results of the pending grand jury investigation by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, and our ability to reach a final approved settlement with respect to the putative class action, the unconsolidated class action, and derivative shareholders litigation against us on the terms of the stipulations of settlement described herein;

our ability to obtain programming at reasonable prices or to pass programming cost increases on to our customers;

general business conditions, economic uncertainty or slowdown; and

the effects of governmental regulation, including but not limited to local franchise taxing authorities, on our business.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-1 to register the sale of the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus, which forms part of that registration statement, does not contain all the information included in the registration statement. For further information about us and the securities described in this prospectus, you should refer to the registration statement and its exhibits.

Our Class A common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol CHTR. We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy at prescribed rates any document we file at the SEC's public reference room at Room 1200, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

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SUMMARY

This summary contains a general discussion of our business, and summary financial information. It does not contain all the information that you should consider before making an investment decision regarding our Class A common stock. For a more complete understanding of an investment in our Class A common stock, you should read this entire prospectus. Unless otherwise noted, all business data in this summary is as of December 31, 2004.

Unless otherwise stated, the discussion in this prospectus of our business and operations includes the business and operations of Charter Communications, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms we, us and our refer to Charter Communications, Inc. and its direct and indirect subsidiaries on a consolidated basis. The term Charter refers to the issuer, Charter Communications, Inc.

Our Business

We are a broadband communications company operating in the United States, with approximately 6.22 million customers at December 31, 2004. Through our broadband network of coaxial and fiber optic cable, we offer our customers traditional cable video programming (analog and digital, which we refer to as video service), high-speed cable Internet access (which we refer to as high-speed data service), advanced broadband cable services (such as video on demand (VOD), high definition television service, and interactive television) and, in some of our markets, we offer telephone service (which we refer to as telephony). See Business Products and Services for further description of these terms, including customers.

At December 31, 2004, we served approximately 5.99 million analog video customers, of which approximately 2.67 million were also digital video customers. We also served approximately 1.88 million high-speed data customers (including approximately 217,400 who received only high-speed data services). We also provided telephony service to approximately 45,400 customers as of that date.

Our principal executive offices are located at Charter Plaza, 12405 Powerscourt Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63131. Our telephone number is (314) 965-0555 and we have a website accessible at www.charter.com. The information posted or linked on our website is not part of this prospectus and you should rely solely on the information contained in this prospectus and the related documents to which we refer herein when deciding to make an investment in our Class A common stock.

Strategy

Our principal financial goal is to maximize our return on invested capital. To do so, we will focus on increasing revenues, growing our customer base, improving customer retention and enhancing customer satisfaction by providing reliable, high-quality service offerings, superior customer service and attractive bundled offerings.

Specifically, in the near term, we are focusing on:

generating improvements in the overall customer experience in such critical areas as service delivery, customer care, and new product offerings;

developing more sophisticated customer management capabilities through investment in our customer care and marketing infrastructure, including targeted marketing capabilities;

executing growth strategies for new services, including digital simulcast, VOD, telephony, and digital video recorder service (DVR);

managing our operating costs by exercising discipline in capital and operational spending; and

identifying opportunities to continue to improve our balance sheet and liquidity.

We have begun an internal operational improvement initiative aimed at helping us gain new customers and retain existing customers, which is focused on customer care, technical operations and sales. We intend to increase efforts to focus management attention on instilling a customer service oriented

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culture throughout the company and to give those areas of our operations increased priority of resources for staffing levels, training budgets and financial incentives for employee performance in those areas.

We believe that our high-speed data service will continue to provide a substantial portion of our revenue growth in the near future. We also plan to continue to expand our marketing of high-speed data service to the business community, which we believe has shown an increasing interest in high-speed data service and private network services. Additionally, we plan to continue to prepare additional markets for telephony launches in 2005.

We believe we offer our customers an excellent choice of services through a variety of bundled packages, particularly with respect to our digital video and high-speed data services, as well as telephony in certain markets. Our digital platform enables us to offer a significant number and variety of channels, and we offer customers the opportunity to choose among groups of channel offerings, including premium channels, and to combine selected programming with other services such as high-speed data, high definition television (in selected markets) and VOD (in selected markets).

We continue to pursue opportunities to improve our liquidity. Our efforts in this regard resulted in the completion of a number of transactions in 2004, as follows:

the December 2004 sale by our subsidiaries, CCO Holdings, LLC and CCO Holdings Capital Corp., of \$550 million of senior floating rate notes due 2010;

the November 2004 sale of the \$862.5 million of 5.875% convertible senior notes due 2009;

the December 2004 redemption of all of our 5.75% convertible senior notes due 2005 (\$588 million principal amount);

the April 2004 sale of \$1.5 billion of senior second lien notes by our subsidiary, Charter Communications Operating, LLC (Charter Operating), together with the concurrent refinancing of its credit facilities; and

the sale in the first half of 2004 of non-core cable systems for a total of \$733 million, the proceeds of which were used to reduce indebtedness.

Recent Events

CC V Holdings, LLC Notes

In February 2005, our subsidiary, CC V Holdings, LLC, called for redemption all of its 11.875% notes due 2008, at 103.958% of principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the anticipated date of redemption, on March 14, 2005. The total cost of redemption is expected to be approximately \$122 million and is expected to be funded through borrowings under our credit facilities.

Management Changes

On January 17, 2005, Robert P. May was appointed as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Charter, replacing Carl E. Vogel who, effective on the same date, resigned his position as President, Chief Executive Officer, and a member of the board of directors of Charter and each of Charter's subsidiaries for which Mr. Vogel served as a director and officer. Additionally, Mr. May was appointed to the Executive Committee of Charter's board of directors and will continue to serve on the board's Strategic Planning Committee. He was also appointed as an officer and director of Charter's subsidiaries for which Mr. Vogel was a director and officer.

Charter's board of directors has formed an Executive Search Committee to oversee Charter's search for a permanent President and Chief Executive Officer.

Derek Chang, our Executive Vice President of Finance and Strategy and Interim co-Chief Financial Officer, has informed Charter of his intention to resign effective April 15, 2005.

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Sale of CCO Holdings, LLC Senior Floating Rate Notes

On December 15, 2004, our subsidiaries, CCO Holdings, LLC and CCO Holdings Capital Corp., issued and sold \$550 million total principal amount of senior floating rate notes due 2010. The notes have an annual interest rate of LIBOR plus 4.125%, reset and payable quarterly. The net proceeds from the sale of the notes were used to pay down bank debt and for general corporate purposes.

Sale of 5.875% Convertible Senior Notes

On November 22, 2004, we issued and sold \$862.5 million original total principal amount of 5.875% convertible senior notes due 2009, which are convertible into shares of our Class A common stock, par value \$.001 per share, at a rate of 413.2231 shares per \$1,000 principal amount of notes (or approximately \$2.42 per share), subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. In connection with the issuance of the notes, we agreed to file the registration statement containing this prospectus and also file a shelf registration statement covering resales of the notes and shares of Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes. On December 23, 2004, we used a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the notes to redeem all of our outstanding 5.75% convertible senior notes due 2005 (total principal amount of \$588 million). We also used a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the notes to purchase certain U.S. government securities which were pledged as security for the notes and which we expect to use to fund the first six interest payments on the notes.

For additional terms of the notes and the arrangements governing the loan of shares of our Class A common stock covered by this prospectus, see [Share Lending Agreement](#) and [Description of Certain Indebtedness Outstanding Notes Charter Communications, Inc. Notes 5.875% Convertible Senior Notes due 2009](#).

The Offering

Total shares of Class A common stock offered by us hereby	150,000,000 shares
Approximate number of shares of Class A common stock to be outstanding after the offering	454,795,728 shares (including the 150,000,000 shares offered hereby)
Nasdaq National Market Symbol	CHTR

The shares of our Class A common stock offered hereby are shares that we have loaned to Citigroup Global Markets Limited pursuant to a share lending agreement, dated as of November 22, 2004, which we refer to as the [share lending agreement](#). Under the share lending agreement, we will receive a loan fee of \$.001 per share. We will not receive any proceeds from this offering. See [Share Lending Agreement](#) and [Underwriting](#).

Risk Factors

Investing in our Class A common stock involves substantial risk. See the [Risk Factors](#) section of this prospectus for a description of certain of the risks you should consider before investing in our Class A common stock.

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Organizational Structure

The chart below sets forth the organizational structure of Charter and its principal direct and indirect subsidiaries. The equity ownership, voting percentages and indebtedness amounts shown below are approximations as of December 31, 2004 on the pro forma basis described in Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Statements and do not give effect to any exercise, conversion or exchange of then outstanding options, preferred stock, convertible notes and other convertible or exchangeable securities. See Recent Events.

- (1) Charter acts as the sole manager of Charter Holdco and its direct and indirect limited liability company subsidiaries. Charter's certificate of incorporation requires that its principal assets be securities of Charter Holdco, the terms of which mirror the terms of securities issued by Charter. See Description of Capital Stock and Membership Units.
- (2) These membership units are held by Charter Investment, Inc. and Vulcan Cable III Inc., each of which is 100% owned by Paul G. Allen, our Chairman and controlling shareholder. They are exchangeable at any time on a one-for-one basis for shares of Charter Class A common stock.
- (3) The percentages shown in this table reflect the issuance of the 150 million shares of Class A common stock offered hereby and the corresponding issuance of an equal number of mirror membership units by Charter Holdco to Charter. However, for accounting purposes, Charter's common equity interest in Charter Holdco will remain at 47%, and Paul G. Allen's ownership of Charter Holdco will remain at 53%. These percentages exclude the 150 million mirror membership units issued to Charter due to the required return of the issued mirror units upon return of the shares offered hereby pursuant to the share lending agreement. See Share Lending Agreement.

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- (4) Represents 100% of the preferred membership interests in CC VIII, LLC, a subsidiary of CC V Holdings, LLC. An issue has arisen regarding the ultimate ownership of such CC VIII, LLC membership interests following Mr. Allen's acquisition of those interests on June 6, 2003. See Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Transactions Arising out of Our Organizational Structure and Mr. Allen's Investment in Charter Communications, Inc. and Its Subsidiaries Equity Put Rights CC VIII.
- (5) CC V Holdings, LLC, the issuer of \$113 million accreted value of senior discount notes, is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of CCO NR Holdings, LLC, and holds 100% of the common membership units of CC VIII, LLC. Mr. Allen, through Charter Investment, Inc., holds 100% of the preferred membership units in CC VIII, LLC. CC VIII, LLC holds 100% of the equity of CC VIII Operating, LLC, which in turn holds 100% of the equity of a number of operating subsidiaries. One such operating subsidiary (CC Michigan, LLC) is a guarantor of the CC V Holdings senior discount notes. The Charter Operating credit facilities require us to redeem the CC V Holdings notes within 45 days after the first date that the Charter Holdings leverage ratio is less than 8.75 to 1.0. In satisfaction of this requirement, CC V Holdings, LLC has called for redemption all of its outstanding notes, at 103.958% of principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the date of redemption, which is anticipated to be March 14, 2005.

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Summary Consolidated Financial Data

Charter is a holding company whose principal assets are a controlling common equity interest in Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC and mirror notes that are payable by Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC to Charter which have the same principal amount and terms as those of Charter's convertible senior notes. Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC is a holding company whose primary assets are equity interests in our cable operating subsidiaries and intercompany loan receivables. Charter consolidates Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC on the basis of voting control. Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC's limited liability agreement provides that so long as Charter's Class B common stock retains its special voting rights, Charter will maintain 100% voting interest in Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC. Voting control gives Charter full authority and control over the operations of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC.

The following table presents summary financial and other data for Charter and its subsidiaries and has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Charter and its subsidiaries for the three years ended December 31, 2004. The consolidated financial statements of Charter and its subsidiaries for the years ended December 31, 2002 to 2004 have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. The pro forma data set forth below represent our unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements after giving effect to the following transactions as if they occurred on January 1 of the respective period for the statement of operations data and other financial data and as of the last day of the respective period for the operating data and balance sheet data:

(1) the disposition of certain assets in March and April 2004 and the use of proceeds in each case to pay down credit facilities;

(2) the issuance and sale of the CCO Holdings senior floating rate notes in December 2004 and the Charter Operating senior second lien notes in April 2004 with proceeds used to refinance or repay outstanding debt and for general corporate purposes;

(3) an increase in amounts outstanding under the Charter Operating credit facilities in April 2004 and the use of such funds, together with the proceeds of the sale of the Charter Operating senior second lien notes, to refinance amounts outstanding under the credit facilities of our subsidiaries, CC VI Operating, CC VIII Operating and Falcon;

(4) the repayment of \$530 million of borrowings under the Charter Operating revolving credit facility with net proceeds from the issuance and sale of the CCO Holdings senior floating rate notes in December 2004, which were included in our cash balance at December 31, 2004;

(5) the redemption of all of CC V Holdings' outstanding 11.875% senior discount notes due 2008 with cash on hand;

(6) the issuance and sale of \$863 million of 5.875% convertible senior notes in November 2004 with proceeds used for (i) the purchase of certain U.S. government securities pledged as security for the 5.875% convertible senior notes (and which we expect to use to fund the first six interest payments thereon), (ii) redemption of the outstanding 5.75% convertible senior notes due 2005 and (iii) general corporate purposes; and

(7) the issuance of the shares offered hereby pursuant to a share lending agreement.

The following information should be read in conjunction with Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data, Capitalization, Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, Share Lending Agreement and the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

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	Year Ended December 31,			
	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2004 Pro Forma(a)
(Dollars in millions, except per share, share and customer data)				
Statement of Operations Data:				
Revenues:				
Video	\$ 3,420	\$ 3,461	\$ 3,373	\$ 3,352
High-speed data	337	556	741	738
Advertising sales	302	263	289	288
Commercial	161	204	238	236
Other	346	335	336	334
Total revenues	4,566	4,819	4,977	4,948(b)
Costs and Expenses:				
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization)	1,807	1,952	2,080	2,068
Selling, general and administrative	963	940	971	967
Depreciation and amortization	1,436	1,453	1,495	1,489
Impairment of franchises	4,638		2,433	2,433
(Gain) loss on sale of assets, net	3	5	(86)	19
Option compensation expense (income), net	5	4	31	31
Special charges, net	36	21	104	104
Unfavorable contracts and other settlements		(72)	(5)	(5)
Total costs and expenses	8,888	4,303	7,023	7,106
Income (loss) from operations	(4,322)	516	(2,046)	(2,158)
Interest expense, net	(1,503)	(1,557)	(1,670)	(1,709)
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments and hedging activities, net	(115)	65	69	69
Loss on debt to equity conversions			(23)	(23)
Gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt		267	(31)	
Other, net	(4)	(16)	3	3
Loss before minority interest, income taxes and cumulative effect of accounting change	(5,944)	(725)	(3,698)	(3,818)
Minority interest	3,176	377	19	19
Loss before income taxes and cumulative effect of accounting change	(2,768)	(348)	(3,679)	(3,799)
Income tax benefit	460	110	103	117
Loss before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ (2,308)	\$ (238)	\$ (3,576)	\$ (3,682)
Loss per common share, basic and diluted(c)	\$ (7.85)	\$ (0.82)	\$ (11.92)	\$ (12.27)
Weighted-average common shares outstanding, basic and diluted	294,440,261	294,597,519	300,291,877	300,291,877

Other Financial Data:

Capital expenditures	\$ 2,167	\$ 854	\$ 924	\$ 922
Deficiencies of earnings to cover fixed charges(d)	\$ 5,944	\$ 725	\$ 3,698	\$ 3,818

December 31,

	2003 Actual	2003 Pro Forma	2004 Actual
Operating Data (end of period)(e):			
Analog video customers	6,431,300	6,200,500	5,991,500
Digital video customers	2,671,900	2,588,600	2,674,700
Residential high-speed data customers	1,565,600	1,527,800	1,884,400
Telephony customers	24,900	24,900	45,400

Pro Forma
As of December 31,
2004

(Dollars in millions)

Balance Sheet Data (end of period):

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1
Total assets	17,024
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,216
Long-term debt	18,821
Other long-term liabilities	681
Minority interest(f)	648
Shareholders' deficit	(4,411)

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(a) Actual revenues exceeded pro forma revenues for the year ended December 31, 2004 by \$29 million. Pro forma loss before cumulative effect of accounting, net of tax exceeded actual loss before cumulative effect of accounting, net of tax by \$106 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. The unaudited pro forma financial information required allocation of certain revenues and expenses and such information has been presented for comparative purposes and is not intended (a) to provide any indication of what our actual financial position or results of operations would have been had the transactions described above been completed on the dates indicated or (b) to project our results of operations for any future date.

(b) Pro forma 2004 revenue by quarter is as follows:

	2004 Pro Forma Revenue
	(In millions)
1st Quarter	\$ 1,185
2nd Quarter	1,239
3rd Quarter	1,248
4th Quarter	1,276
	<hr/>
Total pro forma revenue	\$4,948

- (c) Loss per common share, basic and diluted, assumes none of the membership units of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC are exchanged for Charter common stock and none of the outstanding options to purchase membership units of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC that are automatically exchanged for Charter common stock are exercised. Basic loss per share equals loss before cumulative effect of accounting change less dividends on preferred stock-redeemable divided by weighted average shares outstanding. If the membership units were exchanged or options exercised, the effects would be antidilutive. Therefore, basic and diluted loss per common share is the same.
- (d) Earnings include net loss plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and an estimated interest component of rent expense.
- (e) See **Business Products and Services** for definitions of the terms contained in this section.
- (f) Minority interest represents the percentage of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC not owned by Charter, plus preferred membership interests in CC VIII, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Holdco. Paul G. Allen indirectly holds the preferred membership units in CC VIII as a result of the exercise of a put right originally granted in connection with the Bresnan transaction in 2000. An issue has arisen regarding the ultimate ownership of the CC VIII membership interests following the consummation of the Bresnan put transaction on June 6, 2003. See **Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Transactions Arising Out of Our Organizational Structure and Mr. Allen's Investment in Charter and Its Subsidiaries Equity Put Rights CC VIII**. Reported losses allocated to minority interest on the statement of operations are limited to the extent of any remaining minority interest on the balance sheet related to Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC. Because minority interest in Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC was substantially eliminated at December 31, 2003, beginning in 2004, Charter absorbs substantially all losses before income taxes that otherwise would have been allocated to minority interest. This resulted in an approximate additional \$2.4 billion of net loss for the year ended December 31, 2004. Under our existing capital structure, Charter will absorb substantially all future losses.

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RISK FACTORS

An investment in our Class A common stock entails the following risks. You should carefully consider these risk factors, as well as the other information contained in this prospectus, before making a decision to invest in our Class A common stock.

Risks Related to Significant Indebtedness of Us and Our Subsidiaries

We and our subsidiaries have a significant amount of existing debt and may incur substantial additional debt in the future, which could adversely affect our financial health and our ability to react to changes in our business.

We and our subsidiaries have a significant amount of debt and may (subject to applicable restrictions in their debt instruments) incur additional debt in the future. As of December 31, 2004, our total debt was approximately \$19.5 billion, and our shareholders' deficit was approximately \$4.4 billion. On the pro forma basis set forth in Summary Consolidated Financial Data, our total debt would have been approximately \$18.8 billion at December 31, 2004, and the deficiency of earnings to cover fixed charges for the year ended December 31, 2004 would have been approximately \$3.8 billion. In 2006 and beyond, significant amounts will become due under our remaining long-term debt obligations. The maturities of these obligations are set forth in Description of Certain Indebtedness.

We believe that as a result of our significant levels of debt and operating performance, our access to the debt markets could be limited. If our business does not generate sufficient cash flow from operating activities, and sufficient funds are not available to us from borrowings under our credit facilities or from other sources, we may not be able to repay our debt, fund our other liquidity and capital needs, grow our business or respond to competitive challenges. Further, if we are unable to repay or refinance our debt, as it becomes due, we could be forced to restructure our obligations or seek protection under the bankruptcy laws. If we were to raise capital through the issuance of additional equity or to engage in a recapitalization or other similar transaction, our shareholders could suffer significant dilution and our noteholders might not receive principal and interest payments to which they are contractually entitled on a timely basis or at all.

Our significant amount of debt could have other important consequences to you. For example, the debt will or could:

require us to dedicate a significant portion of our cash flow from operating activities to payments on our debt, which will reduce our funds available for working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate expenses;

limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business, the cable and telecommunications industries and the economy at large;

place us at a disadvantage as compared to our competitors that have proportionately less debt;

make us vulnerable to interest rate increases, because a significant amount of our borrowings are, and will continue to be, at variable rates of interest;

expose us to increased interest expense as we refinance our existing lower interest rate instruments;

adversely affect our relationship with customers and suppliers;

limit our ability to borrow additional funds in the future, due to applicable financial and restrictive covenants in our debt; and

make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations to the holders of our notes and for our subsidiaries to satisfy their obligations to their lenders under their credit facilities and to their bondholders.

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A default by one of our subsidiaries under its debt obligations could result in the acceleration of those obligations, the obligations of our other subsidiaries and our obligations under our convertible notes. If current debt levels increase, the related risks that we and you now face will intensify.

The agreements and instruments governing our debt and the debt of our subsidiaries contain restrictions and limitations that could significantly affect our ability to operate our business and adversely affect you, as a shareholder.

The Charter Operating credit facilities and the indentures governing our and our subsidiaries' other debt contain a number of significant covenants that could adversely affect our ability to operate our business, and therefore could adversely affect our results of operations and the price of our Class A common stock. These covenants restrict our and our subsidiaries' ability to:

- incur additional debt;
- repurchase or redeem equity interests and debt;
- issue equity;
- make certain investments or acquisitions;
- pay dividends or make other distributions;
- receive distributions from our subsidiaries;
- dispose of assets or merge;
- enter into related party transactions;
- grant liens; and
- pledge assets.

Furthermore, the Charter Operating credit facilities require us to, among other things, maintain specified financial ratios, meet specified financial tests and provide audited financial statements with an unqualified opinion from our independent auditors. See "Description of Certain Indebtedness" for details on our debt covenants. Our ability to comply with these provisions may be affected by events beyond our control.

The breach of any covenants or obligations in the foregoing indentures or credit facilities, not otherwise waived or amended, could result in a default under the applicable debt agreement or instrument and could trigger acceleration of the related debt, which in turn could trigger defaults under other agreements governing our long-term indebtedness. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources." In addition, the secured lenders under the Charter Operating credit facilities and the holders of the Charter Operating senior second-lien notes could foreclose on their collateral, which includes equity interests in our subsidiaries, and exercise other rights of secured creditors. Any default under those credit facilities, the indentures governing our convertible notes or our subsidiaries' debt could adversely affect our growth, our financial condition and our results of operations and our ability to make payments on our notes and Charter Operating's credit facilities and other debt of our subsidiaries. See "Description of Certain Indebtedness."

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We may not generate sufficient cash flow to fund our capital expenditures, ongoing operations and debt obligations.

Our ability to service our debt and our subsidiaries' debt and to fund our and our subsidiaries' planned capital expenditures and ongoing operations will depend on our and our subsidiaries' ability to generate cash flow. Our ability to generate cash flow is dependent on many factors, including:

our future operating performance;

the demand for our products and services;

general economic conditions and conditions affecting customer and advertiser spending;

competition and our ability to stabilize customer losses; and

legal and regulatory factors affecting our business.

Some of these factors are beyond our control. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow, we may not be able to service and repay our debt, operate our business, respond to competitive challenges or fund our other liquidity and capital needs. Cash flows from operating activities and amounts available under our credit facilities may not be sufficient to permit us to fund our operations and satisfy our principal repayment obligations that come due in 2006 and, we believe, such amounts will not be sufficient to fund our operations and satisfy such repayment obligations thereafter.

Additionally, franchise valuations performed in accordance with the requirements of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, are based on the projected cash flows derived by selling products and services to new customers in future periods. Declines in future cash flows could result in lower valuations which in turn may result in impairments to the franchise assets in our financial statements.

Charter Operating may not be able to access funds under its credit facilities if it fails to satisfy the covenant restrictions in its credit facilities, which could adversely affect our financial condition and our ability to conduct our business.

Our subsidiaries have historically relied on access to credit facilities in order to fund operations and to service parent company debt, and we expect such reliance to continue in the future. Unused availability under the Charter Operating credit facilities was approximately \$804 million as of December 31, 2004. However, our access to these funds is subject to our satisfaction of the covenants and conditions to borrowing in those facilities.

An event of default under the credit facilities or indentures, if not waived, could result in the acceleration of those debt obligations and, consequently, other debt obligations. Such acceleration could result in the exercise of remedies by our creditors and could force us to seek the protection of the bankruptcy laws, which could materially adversely impact our ability to operate our business and to make payments under our debt instruments. In addition, an event of default under the credit facilities, such as the failure to maintain the applicable required financial ratios, would prevent additional borrowing under our subsidiary credit facilities, which could materially adversely affect our ability to operate our business and to make payments under our debt instruments.

All of our and our subsidiaries' outstanding debt is subject to change of control provisions. We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to fulfill our obligations under our indebtedness following a change of control, which would place us in default under the applicable debt instruments.

We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to fulfill our obligations under our convertible senior notes and our subsidiaries' senior notes, senior discount notes, senior floating rate notes and credit facilities following a change of control. Under the indentures governing our convertible senior notes, upon the occurrence of specified change of control events, including certain specified dispositions of stock by Mr. Allen, we are required to offer to repurchase all of our outstanding convertible senior notes. However, we may not have sufficient funds at the time of the change of control event to make the

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required repurchase of our convertible senior notes, and our subsidiaries are limited in their ability to make distributions or other payments to us to fund any required repurchase. In addition, a change of control under our subsidiaries' credit facilities and indentures governing our subsidiaries' notes would require the repayment of borrowings totaling \$18.5 billion at December 31, 2004 under those credit facilities and indentures. Because such credit facilities and notes are obligations of our subsidiaries, the credit facilities and our subsidiaries' notes would have to be repaid by our subsidiaries before their assets could be available to us to repurchase our convertible senior notes. Additionally, our subsidiaries may not have sufficient funds at the time of the change of control to make the required repurchases or repayments. Our failure to make or complete a change of control offer would place us in default under our convertible senior notes. The failure of our subsidiaries to make a change of control offer or repay the amounts outstanding under their credit facilities would place them in default under these agreements and could result in a default under the indentures governing our convertible senior notes and our subsidiaries' credit facilities and notes.

Paul G. Allen and his affiliates are not obligated to purchase equity from, contribute to or loan funds to us or any of our subsidiaries in the future.

Paul G. Allen and his affiliates have purchased equity, contributed funds and provided other financial support to Charter and Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC (Charter Holdco) in the past. However, Mr. Allen and his affiliates are not obligated to purchase equity from, contribute to or loan funds to us or any of our subsidiaries in the future.

Risks Related to Our Business

We operate in a very competitive business environment, which affects our ability to attract and retain customers and can adversely affect our business and operations. We have lost a significant number of customers to direct broadcast satellite competition, and further loss of customers could have a material negative impact on our business.

The industry in which we operate is highly competitive and has become more so in recent years. In some instances, we compete against companies with fewer regulatory burdens, easier access to financing, greater personnel resources, greater brand name recognition and long-established relationships with regulatory authorities and customers. Increasing consolidation in the cable industry and the repeal of certain ownership rules may provide additional benefits to certain of our competitors, either through access to financing, resources or efficiencies of scale.

Our principal competitor for video services throughout our territory is direct broadcast satellite television services, also known as DBS. Competition from DBS, including intensive marketing efforts, aggressive pricing and the ability of DBS to provide certain services that we are in the process of developing, has had an adverse impact on our ability to retain customers. DBS has grown rapidly over the last several years and continues to do so. The cable industry, including Charter, has lost a significant number of subscribers to DBS competition, and we face serious challenges in this area in the future. We believe that competition from DBS service providers may present greater challenges in areas of lower population density, and that our systems may service a higher concentration of such areas than those of other major cable service providers.

Local telephone companies and electric utilities can offer video and other services in competition with us and they increasingly may do so in the future. Certain telephone companies have begun more extensive deployment of fiber in their networks that will enable them to begin providing video services, as well as telephony and Internet access services, to residential and business customers. The subscription television industry also faces competition from free broadcast television and from other communications and entertainment media. Further loss of customers to DBS or other alternative video and data services could have a material negative impact on the value of our business and its performance.

With respect to our Internet access services, we face competition, including intensive marketing efforts and aggressive pricing, from telephone companies and other providers of dial-up and DSL. DSL service

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is competitive with high-speed data service over cable systems. Telephone companies (which already have telephone lines into the household, an existing customer base and other operational functions in place) and other companies offer DSL service. In addition, certain DBS providers are now providing two-way high-speed Internet access services, which are competing with our ability to provide bundled services to our customers.

In order to attract new customers, from time to time we make promotional offers, including offers of temporarily reduced-price or free service. These promotional programs result in significant advertising, programming and operating expenses, and also require us to make capital expenditures to acquire additional digital set-top terminals. Customers who subscribe to our services as a result of these offerings may not remain customers for any significant period of time following the end of the promotional period. A failure to retain existing customers and customers added through promotional offerings or to collect the amounts they owe us could have an adverse effect on our business and financial results.

Mergers, joint ventures and alliances among franchised, wireless or private cable operators, satellite television providers, local exchange carriers and others, and the repeal of certain ownership rules may provide additional benefits to some of our competitors, either through access to financing, resources or efficiencies of scale, or the ability to provide multiple services in direct competition with us.

We cannot assure you that our cable systems will allow us to compete effectively. Additionally, as we expand our offerings to include other telecommunications services, and to introduce new and enhanced services, we will be subject to competition from other providers of the services we offer. We cannot predict the extent to which competition may affect our business and operations in the future. See Business Competition.

Our dispute with Paul G. Allen concerning the ownership of an interest in CC VIII, LLC could adversely impact the value of our common stock, our ability to repay our debt and our ability to obtain future financing.

As part of our acquisition of the cable systems owned by Bresnan Communications Company Limited Partnership in February 2000, CC VIII, LLC, our indirect limited liability company subsidiary, issued, after adjustments, 24,273,943 Class A preferred membership units (which we refer to collectively as the CC VIII interest) with a value and an initial capital account of approximately \$630 million to certain sellers affiliated with AT&T Broadband, subsequently owned by Comcast Corporation (which we refer to as the Comcast sellers). Our controlling shareholder, Paul G. Allen, granted the Comcast sellers the right to sell to him the CC VIII interest for approximately \$630 million plus 4.5% interest annually from February 2000 (which we refer to as the Comcast put right). In April 2002, the Comcast sellers exercised the Comcast put right in full, and this transaction was consummated on June 6, 2003. Accordingly, Mr. Allen has become the holder of the CC VIII interest, indirectly through an affiliate.

We are in a dispute with Mr. Allen as to whether he is entitled to retain the CC VIII interest, or whether he must exchange that interest for units of our subsidiary, Charter Holdco. The dispute concerns whether the documentation for the Bresnan transaction was correct and complete with regard to the ultimate ownership of the CC VIII interest following consummation of the Comcast put right. The law firm that prepared the documents for the Bresnan transaction brought this matter to the attention of Charter and representatives of Mr. Allen in 2002. After subsequently conducting an investigation of the relevant facts and circumstances, a Special Committee of Charter's Board of Directors determined that a scrivener's error had occurred in February 2000 in connection with the preparation of the Bresnan transaction documents, resulting in the inadvertent deletion of a provision that would have required an automatic exchange of the CC VIII interest for 24,273,943 Charter Holdco membership units if the Comcast sellers exercised the Comcast put right and sold the CC VIII interest to Mr. Allen or his affiliates. Mr. Allen disagrees with the Special Committee's determinations and contends that the transaction is accurately reflected in the transaction documentation and contemporaneous and subsequent company public disclosures. If the Special Committee and Mr. Allen are unable to reach a resolution through an ongoing mediation process or to agree on an alternative dispute resolution process, the Special Committee intends to seek resolution of this dispute.

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through judicial proceedings in an action that would be commenced, after appropriate notice, in the Delaware Court of Chancery against Mr. Allen and his affiliates seeking contract reformation, declaratory relief as to the respective rights of the parties regarding this dispute and alternative forms of legal and equitable relief. This dispute and related matters (including certain issues associated with the ultimate disposition of the interest in CC VIII) are more fully described in Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Transactions Arising Out of Our Organizational Structure and Mr. Allen's Investment in Charter and Its Subsidiaries Equity Put Rights CC VIII.

If it is determined that Mr. Allen is entitled to retain the CC VIII interest, then our indirect interest in CC VIII would continue to exclude the value of Mr. Allen's interest in CC VIII, consistent with our current treatment of the CCVIII interest in our financial statements. As a result, the amounts available for repayment of our creditors, including creditors of our subsidiaries, would not include the value represented by Mr. Allen's CC VIII interest, and the value of our Class A common stock similarly would not reflect any value attributable to Mr. Allen's CC VIII interest. Further, such retained interest in CC VIII could reduce our borrowing capacity (due to a portion of the equity interest being held by a party other than Charter or a Charter subsidiary) or make it more difficult for us to secure financing for our CC VIII subsidiary due to concerns as to possible claims that could be asserted by Mr. Allen as the holder of a minority interest in CC VIII. In addition, if it is determined that Mr. Allen is entitled to retain the CC VIII interest, such retention could complicate efforts to sell our CC VIII subsidiary or its assets to a third party, and Mr. Allen could be entitled to receive a portion of the proceeds of such a sale, thereby reducing the amount of such proceeds that would otherwise be available to us and our security holders.

We are currently the subject of certain lawsuits and other legal matters, the unfavorable outcome of which could adversely affect our business and financial condition.

A number of putative federal class action lawsuits have been filed against us and certain of our former and present officers and directors alleging violations of securities laws, which have been consolidated for pretrial purposes. In addition, a number of other lawsuits have been filed against us in other jurisdictions. A shareholders derivative suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and several class action lawsuits were filed in Delaware state court against us and certain of our directors and officers. Finally, three shareholders derivative suits were filed in Missouri state court against us, our then current directors and our former independent auditor. These actions have been consolidated. The federal shareholders derivative suit, the Delaware class actions and the consolidated derivative suit each alleged that the defendants breached their fiduciary duties.

Charter recently entered into Stipulations of Settlement setting forth proposed terms of settlement for the above described Delaware class actions and derivative suits. The settlement of each of the lawsuits remains conditioned upon, among other things, final judicial approval of the settlements following notice to the class, and dismissal with prejudice of the consolidated derivative actions now pending in Missouri state court, which are related to the Federal Derivative Action. Additionally, a portion of the settlement is to be paid in shares of Charter's Class A common stock with a value of \$45 million (includes shares issuable to insurance carriers) and warrants to purchase Charter's Class A common stock valued at \$40 million, with such values in each case determined by formulas set forth in the Stipulations of Settlement. If the price of Charter's common stock declines, additional shares will be required in order to fulfill this commitment. Charter has the right but not the obligation to terminate the settlements if the value of its common stock (under the above-described formula) is less than \$2.25. See Business Legal Proceedings.

In August 2002, we became aware of a grand jury investigation being conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri into certain of our accounting and reporting practices focusing on how we reported customer numbers, and our reporting of amounts received from digital set-top terminal suppliers for advertising. The U.S. Attorney's Office has publicly stated that we are not a target of the investigation. We were also advised by the U.S. Attorney's Office that no current officer or member of our board of directors is a target of the investigation. On July 24, 2003, a federal grand jury charged four of our former officers with conspiracy and mail and wire fraud, alleging improper accounting and reporting practices focusing on revenue from digital set-top terminal suppliers and inflated customer

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account numbers. Each of the indicted former officers pled guilty to single conspiracy counts related to the original mail and wire fraud charges and are awaiting sentencing. We are fully cooperating with the investigation.

On November 4, 2002, we received an informal, non-public inquiry from the staff of the SEC. The SEC issued a formal order of investigation dated January 23, 2003, and subsequently served document and testimony subpoenas on us and a number of our former employees. The investigation and subpoenas generally concerned our prior reports with respect to our determination of the number of customers and various of our accounting policies and practices including our capitalization of certain expenses and dealings with certain vendors, including programmers and digital set-top terminal suppliers. On July 27, 2004, the SEC reached a final agreement with us to settle the investigation. In the Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order, we agreed to entry of an administrative order prohibiting any future violations of United States securities laws and requiring certain other remedial internal practices and public disclosures. We neither admitted nor denied any wrongdoing, and the SEC assessed no fine against us.

In October 2001, two customers, Nikki Nicholls and Geraldine M. Barber, filed a class action suit against Charter Holdco in South Carolina state court purportedly on behalf of a class of Charter Holdco's customers, alleging, among other things, that Charter Holdco improperly charged them a wire maintenance fee without request or permission. They also claimed that Charter Holdco improperly required them to rent analog and/or digital set-top terminals even though their television sets were cable ready. A substantively identical case was filed in the Superior Court of Athens - Clarke County, Georgia by Emma S. Tobar on March 26, 2002, alleging a nationwide class for these claims. Following mediation the parties reached a tentative settlement, subject to final documentation and court approval. On November 10, 2004, the court granted final approval of the settlement, rejecting the positions advanced by two objectors to the settlement. On December 13, 2004, the court entered a written order formally approving that settlement. On January 11, 2005, certain class members appealed the order entered by the Georgia court. Those objectors voluntarily dismissed their appeal with prejudice on February 8, 2005. On February 9, 2005, the South Carolina Court of Common Pleas entered a court order of dismissal for the South Carolina Class Action. Additionally, one of the objectors to this settlement recently filed a similar, but not identical, lawsuit.

Furthermore, we are also a party to, or otherwise involved in, other lawsuits, claims, proceedings and legal matters that have arisen in the ordinary course of conducting our business. In addition, our restatement of our 2000, 2001 and 2002 financial statements could lead to additional or expanded claims or investigations.

We cannot predict with certainty the ultimate outcome of any of the lawsuits, claims, investigations, proceedings and other legal matters to which we are a party to, or otherwise involved in, due to, among other things, (i) the inherent uncertainties of litigation, government investigations and proceedings and legal matters generally, (ii) the remaining conditions to the finalization of the settlements described above, (iii) the possibility of appeals and objections to the settlements described above, and (iv) the need for us to comply with, and/or otherwise implement, certain covenants, conditions, undertakings, procedures and other obligations that would be, or have been, imposed under the terms of the settlements and resolutions described above.

The termination of the settlements described above, an unfavorable outcome in any of the lawsuits pending against us, in any government investigation or proceeding or in any other legal matter, including those described above, or our failure to comply with or properly implement the terms of the settlements described above, could result in substantial potential liabilities and otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, consolidated financial condition and results of operations, in our liquidity, our operations, and/or our ability to comply with any debt covenants. Further, these legal matters, and our actions in response to them, could result in substantial potential liabilities, additional defense and other costs, increase our indemnification obligations, divert management's attention, and/or adversely affect our ability to execute our business and financial strategies.

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See Business Legal Proceedings for additional information concerning these and other litigation matters.

We have a history of net losses and expect to continue to experience net losses. Consequently, we may not have the ability to finance future operations.

We have had a history of net losses and expect to continue to report net losses for the foreseeable future. Our net losses are principally attributable to insufficient revenue to cover the interest costs we incur because of our high level of debt, the depreciation expenses that we incur resulting from the capital investments we have made in our cable properties, and the amortization and impairment of our franchise intangibles. We expect that these expenses (other than amortization and impairment of franchises) will remain significant, and we expect to continue to report net losses for the foreseeable future. We reported losses before cumulative effect of accounting change of \$2.3 billion for 2002, \$238 million for 2003 and \$3.6 billion for 2004, respectively. Continued losses would reduce our cash available from operations to service our indebtedness, as well as limit our ability to finance our operations.

We may not have the ability to pass our increasing programming costs on to our customers, which would adversely affect our cash flow and operating margins.

Programming has been, and is expected to continue to be, our largest operating expense item. In recent years, the cable industry has experienced a rapid escalation in the cost of programming, particularly sports programming. We expect programming costs to continue to increase because of a variety of factors, including inflationary or negotiated annual increases, additional programming being provided to customers and increased costs to purchase or produce programming. The inability to fully pass these programming cost increases on to our customers would have an adverse impact on our cash flow and operating margins. As measured by programming costs, and excluding premium services (substantially all of which were renegotiated and renewed in 2003), as of December 31, 2004, approximately 10% of our current programming contracts (computed based on programming expenditures) were expired, and approximately another 34% are scheduled to expire by the end of 2005. There can be no assurance that these agreements will be renewed on favorable or comparable terms. Our programming costs increased by approximately 6% in 2004 and we expect our programming costs in 2005 to increase at a higher rate than in 2004. To the extent that we are unable to reach agreement with certain programmers on terms that we believe are reasonable we may be forced to remove such programming channels from our line-up, which could result in a further loss of customers. In addition, our inability to fully pass these programming cost increases on to our customers would have an adverse impact on our cash flow and operating margins.

If our required capital expenditures exceed our projections, we may not have sufficient funding, which could adversely affect our growth, financial condition and results of operations.

During the year ended December 31, 2004, we spent approximately \$924 million on capital expenditures. During 2005, we expect capital expenditures to increase to approximately \$1 billion. The actual amount of our capital expenditures depends on the level of growth in high-speed data customers and in the delivery of other advanced services, as well as the cost of introducing any new services. We may need additional capital if there is accelerated growth in high-speed data customers or in the delivery of other advanced services. If we cannot obtain such capital from increases in our cash flow from operating activities, additional borrowings or other sources, our growth, financial condition and results of operations could suffer materially.

Our inability to respond to technological developments and meet customer demand for new products and services could limit our ability to compete effectively.

Our business is characterized by rapid technological change and the introduction of new products and services. We cannot assure you that we will be able to fund the capital expenditures necessary to keep pace with unanticipated technological developments, or that we will successfully anticipate the demand of our customers for products and services requiring new technology. Our inability to maintain and expand

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our upgraded systems and provide advanced services in a timely manner, or to anticipate the demands of the marketplace, could materially adversely affect our ability to attract and retain customers. Consequently, our growth, financial condition and results of operations could suffer materially.

We may not be able to carry out our strategy to improve operating results by standardizing and streamlining operations and procedures.

In prior years, we experienced rapid growth through acquisitions of a number of cable operators and the rapid rebuild and rollout of advanced services. Our future success will depend in part on our ability to standardize and streamline our operations. The failure to implement a consistent corporate culture and management, operating or financial systems or procedures necessary to standardize and streamline our operations and effectively operate our enterprise could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Recent management changes could disrupt operations.

Since August 2004, we have experienced a number of changes in our senior management, including changes in the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and the departure of our Chief Operating Officer. Further, the individuals currently serving as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer are serving in an interim capacity, and our current Executive Vice President of Finance and Strategy and Interim co-Chief Financial Officer will be resigning effective April 15, 2005. These events could disrupt our ability to manage our business as we transition to and integrate a new management team, and any such disruption could adversely affect our operations, growth, financial condition and results of operations.

Malicious and abusive Internet practices could impair our high-speed data services.

Our high-speed data customers utilize our network to access the Internet and, as a consequence, we or they may become victim to common malicious and abusive Internet activities, such as unsolicited mass advertising (or spam) and dissemination of viruses, worms and other destructive or disruptive software. These activities could have adverse consequences on our network and our customers, including degradation of service, excessive call volume to call centers and damage to our or our customers' equipment and data. Significant incidents could lead to customer dissatisfaction and, ultimately, loss of customers or revenue, in addition to increased costs to us to service our customers and protect our network. Any significant loss of high-speed data customers or revenue or significant increase in costs of serving those customers could adversely affect our growth, financial condition and results of operations.

We could be deemed an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940. This would impose significant restrictions on us and would be likely to have a material adverse impact on our growth, financial condition and results of operation.

Our principal assets are our equity interests in Charter Holdco and certain indebtedness of Charter Holdco. If our membership interest in Charter Holdco were to constitute less than 50% of the voting securities issued by Charter Holdco, then our interest in Charter Holdco could be deemed an investment security for purposes of the Investment Company Act. This may occur, for example, if a court determines that the Class B common stock is no longer entitled to special voting rights and, in accordance with the terms of the Charter Holdco limited liability company agreement, our membership units in Charter Holdco were to lose their special voting privileges. A determination that such interest was an investment security could cause us to be deemed to be an investment company under the Investment Company Act, unless an exemption from registration were available or we were to obtain an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission excluding or exempting us from registration under the Investment Company Act.

If anything were to happen which would cause us to be deemed an investment company, the Investment Company Act would impose significant restrictions on us, including severe limitations on our ability to borrow money, to issue additional capital stock and to transact business with affiliates. In

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addition, because our operations are very different from those of the typical registered investment company, regulation under the Investment Company Act could affect us in other ways that are extremely difficult to predict. In sum, if we were deemed to be an investment company it could become impractical for us to continue our business as currently conducted and our growth, our financial condition and our results of operations could suffer materially.

If a court determines that the Class B common stock is no longer entitled to special voting rights, we would lose our rights to manage Charter Holdco. In addition to the investment company risks discussed above, this could materially impact the value of the Class A common stock.

If a court determines that the Class B common stock is no longer entitled to special voting rights, Charter would no longer have a controlling voting interest in, and would lose its right to manage, Charter Holdco. If this were to occur:

we would retain our proportional equity interest in Charter Holdco but would lose all of our powers to direct the management and affairs of Charter Holdco and its subsidiaries; and

we would become strictly a passive investment vehicle and would be treated under the Investment Company Act as an investment company.

This result, as well as the impact of being treated under the Investment Company Act as an investment company, could materially adversely impact:

the liquidity of the Class A common stock;

how the Class A common stock trades in the marketplace;

the price that purchasers would be willing to pay for the Class A common stock in a change of control transaction or otherwise; and

the market price of the Class A common stock.

Uncertainties that may arise with respect to the nature of our management role and voting power and organizational documents as a result of any challenge to the special voting rights of the Class B common stock, including legal actions or proceedings relating thereto, may also materially adversely impact the value of the Class A common stock.

Risks Related to Mr. Allen's Controlling Position

The failure by Mr. Allen to maintain a minimum voting and economic interest in us could trigger a change of control default under our subsidiary's credit facilities.

The Charter Operating credit facilities provide that the failure by Mr. Allen to maintain a 35% direct or indirect voting interest in the applicable borrower would result in a change of control default. Such a default could result in the acceleration of repayment of our and our subsidiaries' indebtedness, including borrowings under the Charter Operating credit facilities. See Risks Related to Significant Indebtedness of Us and Our Subsidiaries. All of our and our subsidiaries' outstanding debt is subject to change of control provisions. We may not have the ability to raise the funds necessary to fulfill our obligations under our indebtedness following a change of control, which would place us in default under the applicable debt instruments.

Mr. Allen controls our stockholder voting and may have interests that conflict with your interests.

Mr. Allen has the ability to control us. Through his control of approximately 93% of the voting power of our capital stock, Mr. Allen, as sole Class B shareholder, is entitled to elect all but one of our board members and effectively has the voting power to elect the remaining board member as well since he controls more than the majority of the vote of the Class A and Class B shareholders voting together as a class. By virtue of Mr. Allen's control of the voting power of Charter, we are a controlled company under Nasdaq rule 4350(c)(5) and are not subject to requirements that a majority of our directors be independent (as defined in Nasdaq's rules) or that there be a nominating committee of Charter's board. Charter does not have a nominating committee. Mr. Allen thus has the ability to control fundamental

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corporate transactions requiring equity holder approval, including, but not limited to, the election of all of our directors, approval of merger transactions involving us and the sale of all or substantially all of our assets.

Mr. Allen is not restricted from investing in, and has invested and engaged in, other businesses involving or related to the operation of cable television systems, video programming, high-speed data service, telephony or business and financial transactions conducted through broadband interactivity and Internet services. Mr. Allen may also engage in other businesses that compete or may in the future compete with us.

Mr. Allen's control over our management and affairs could create conflicts of interest if he is faced with decisions that could have different implications for him, us and the holders of our Class A common stock. Further, Mr. Allen could effectively cause us to enter into contracts with another entity in which he owns an interest or to decline a transaction into which he (or another entity in which he owns an interest) ultimately enters.

Current and future agreements between us and either Mr. Allen or his affiliates may not be the result of arm's-length negotiations. Consequently, such agreements may be less favorable to us than agreements that we could otherwise have entered into with unaffiliated third parties. See "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions."

We are not permitted to engage in any business activity other than the cable transmission of video, audio and data unless Mr. Allen authorizes us to pursue that particular business activity, which could adversely affect our ability to offer new products and services outside of the cable transmission business and to enter into new businesses, and could adversely affect our growth, financial condition and results of operations.

Our certificate of incorporation and Charter Holdco's limited liability company agreement provide that Charter and Charter Holdco and its subsidiaries, cannot engage in any business activity outside the cable transmission business except for specified businesses. This will be the case unless we first offer the opportunity to pursue the particular business activity to Mr. Allen, he decides not to pursue it and he consents to our engaging in the business activity. The cable transmission business means the business of transmitting video, audio (including telephone services), and data over cable television systems owned, operated or managed by us from time to time. These provisions may limit our ability to take advantage of attractive business opportunities.

The loss of Mr. Allen's services could adversely affect our ability to manage our business.

Mr. Allen is Chairman of our board of directors and provides strategic guidance and other services to us. If we were to lose his services, our growth, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely impacted.

The special tax allocation provisions of the Charter Holdco limited liability company agreement may cause us in some circumstances to pay more taxes than if the special tax allocation provisions were not in effect.

Charter Holdco's limited liability company agreement provided that through the end of 2003, net tax losses of Charter Holdco that would otherwise have been allocated to us based generally on our percentage ownership of outstanding common membership units of Charter Holdco would instead be allocated to the membership units held by Vulcan Cable III Inc. and Charter Investment, Inc. The purpose of these special tax allocation provisions was to allow Mr. Allen to take advantage for tax purposes of the losses generated by Charter Holdco. However, beginning in 2002, due to tax capital account limitations, certain net tax losses of Charter Holdco were allocated to us and have continued to be so allocated since that time. The limited liability company agreement further provides that beginning at the time that Charter Holdco generates net tax profits (as determined under the applicable federal income tax rules for determining book profits), the net tax profits that would otherwise have been allocated to us based

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generally on our percentage of outstanding common membership units of Charter Holdco will instead generally be allocated to membership units held by Vulcan Cable III Inc. and Charter Investment, Inc. In some situations, the special tax allocation provisions could result in our having to pay taxes in an amount that is more or less than if Charter Holdco losses and net tax profits to its members were based generally on the percentage of outstanding common membership units owned by such members from the time of the completion of the offering. See Description of Capital Stock and Membership Units Special Tax Allocation Provisions. For further discussions on the details of the tax allocation provision see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates Income Taxes.

The issuance of our Class A common stock offered hereby pursuant to the share lending agreement, as well as possible future conversions of our convertible notes, significantly increases the risk that we will experience an ownership change in the future for tax purposes, resulting in a material limitation on the use of a substantial amount of our existing net operating loss carryforwards.

As of December 31, 2004, we had approximately \$5.2 billion of tax net operating losses (resulting in a gross deferred tax asset of approximately \$2.1 billion), expiring in the years 2005 through 2024. Due to uncertainties in projected future taxable income, valuation allowances have been established against the gross deferred tax assets for book accounting purposes except for deferred benefits available to offset certain deferred tax liabilities. Currently, such tax net operating losses can accumulate and be used to offset any future taxable income of Charter. An ownership change as defined in Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, would place significant limitations, on an annual basis, on the use of such net operating losses to offset any future taxable income we may generate. Such limitations, in conjunction with the net operating loss expiration provisions, could effectively eliminate our ability to use a substantial portion of our net operating losses to offset future taxable income. The shares issued hereby are being issued pursuant to a share lending agreement. See Share Lending Agreement. While the tax treatment of the issuance of shares offered hereby pursuant to a borrowing transaction under the share lending agreement is uncertain, we do not believe that this issuance would result in our experiencing an ownership change. However, future transactions and the timing of such transactions could cause an ownership change. Such transactions include additional issuances of common stock by us (including but not limited to issuances upon future conversion of our 5.875% convertible senior notes or as contemplated in the proposed settlement of derivative class action litigation), reacquisitions of the borrowed shares by us, or acquisitions or sales of shares by certain holders of our shares, including persons who have held, currently hold, or accumulate in the future five percent or more of our outstanding stock (including upon an exchange by Paul Allen or his affiliates, directly or indirectly, of membership units of Charter Holdco into our Class A common stock). Many of the foregoing transactions are beyond our control.

Risks Related to Regulatory and Legislative Matters

Our business is subject to extensive governmental legislation and regulation, which could adversely affect our business by increasing our expenses.

Regulation of the cable industry has increased cable operators' administrative and operational expenses and limited their revenues. Cable operators are subject to, among other things:

rules governing the provision of cable equipment and compatibility with new digital technologies;

rules and regulations relating to subscriber privacy;

limited rate regulation;

requirements that, under specified circumstances, a cable system carry a local broadcast station or obtain consent to carry a local or distant broadcast station;

rules for franchise renewals and transfers; and

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other requirements covering a variety of operational areas such as equal employment opportunity, technical standards and customer service requirements.

Additionally, many aspects of these regulations are currently the subject of judicial proceedings and administrative or legislative proposals. There are also ongoing efforts to amend or expand the federal, state and local regulation of some of our cable systems, which may compound the regulatory risks we already face. Certain states and localities are considering new telecommunications taxes that could increase operating expenses.

Our cable systems are operated under franchises that are subject to non-renewal or termination. The failure to renew a franchise in one or more key markets could adversely affect our business.

Our cable systems generally operate pursuant to franchises, permits and similar authorizations issued by a state or local governmental authority controlling the public rights-of-way. Many franchises establish comprehensive facilities and service requirements, as well as specific customer service standards and monetary penalties for non-compliance. In many cases, franchises are terminable if the franchisee fails to comply with significant provisions set forth in the franchise agreement governing system operations. Franchises are generally granted for fixed terms and must be periodically renewed. Local franchising authorities may resist granting a renewal if either past performance or the prospective operating proposal is considered inadequate. Franchise authorities often demand concessions or other commitments as a condition to renewal. In some instances, franchises have not been renewed at expiration, and we have operated and are operating under either temporary operating agreements or without a license while negotiating renewal terms with the local franchising authorities. Approximately 11% of our franchises, covering approximately 10% of our video customers, were expired at December 31, 2004. Approximately 8% of additional franchises, covering approximately an additional 9% of our video customers, will expire on or before December 31, 2005, if not renewed prior to expiration.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to comply with all significant provisions of our franchise agreements and certain of our franchisors have from time to time alleged that we have not complied with these agreements. Additionally, although historically we have renewed our franchises without incurring significant costs, we cannot assure you that we will be able to renew, or to renew as favorably, our franchises in the future. A termination of and/or a sustained failure to renew a franchise in one or more key markets could adversely affect our business in the affected geographic area.

Our cable systems are operated under franchises that are non-exclusive. Accordingly, local franchising authorities can grant additional franchises and create competition in market areas where none existed previously, resulting in overbuilds, which could adversely affect results of operations.

Our cable systems are operated under non-exclusive franchises granted by local franchising authorities. Consequently, local franchising authorities can grant additional franchises to competitors in the same geographic area or operate their own cable systems. As a result, competing operators may build systems in areas in which we hold franchises. In some cases municipal utilities may legally compete with us without obtaining a franchise from the local franchising authority. The existence of more than one cable system operating in the same territory is referred to as an overbuild. These overbuilds could adversely affect our growth, financial condition and results of operations by creating or increasing competition. As of December 31, 2004, we are aware of overbuild situations impacting approximately 5% of our estimated homes passed, and potential overbuild situations in areas servicing approximately 2% of our estimated homes passed. Additional overbuild situations may occur in other systems.

Local franchise authorities have the ability to impose additional regulatory constraints on our business, which could further increase our expenses.

In addition to the franchise agreement, cable authorities in some jurisdictions have adopted cable regulatory ordinances that further regulate the operation of cable systems. This additional regulation increases the cost of operating our business. We cannot assure you that the local franchising authorities

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will not impose new and more restrictive requirements. Local franchising authorities also have the power to reduce rates and order refunds on the rates charged for basic services.

Further regulation of the cable industry could cause us to delay or cancel service or programming enhancements or impair our ability to raise rates to cover our increasing costs, resulting in increased losses.

Currently, rate regulation is strictly limited to the basic service tier and associated equipment and installation activities. However, the Federal Communications Commission (or FCC) and the U.S. Congress continue to be concerned that cable rate increases are exceeding inflation. It is possible that either the FCC or the U.S. Congress will again restrict the ability of cable system operators to implement rate increases. Should this occur, it would impede our ability to raise our rates. If we are unable to raise our rates in response to increasing costs, our losses would increase.

There has been considerable legislative interest recently in requiring cable operators to offer historically bundled programming services on an à la carte basis. Although the FCC recently made a recommendation to Congress against the à la carte mandate, it is still possible that new marketing restrictions could be adopted in the future. Such restrictions could adversely affect our operations.

Actions by pole owners might subject us to significantly increased pole attachment costs.

Pole attachments are cable wires that are attached to poles. Cable system attachments to public utility poles historically have been regulated at the federal or state level, generally resulting in favorable pole attachment rates for attachments used to provide cable service. The FCC clarified that a cable operator's favorable pole rates are not endangered by the provision of Internet access, and that approach ultimately was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States, except that subsequently on October 6, 2003, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that cable modem service is not cable service but is part telecommunications service and part information service, which possibly could lead to higher pole attachment rates. The Ninth Circuit's decision has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has agreed to hear the case. Despite the existing regulatory regime, utility pole owners in many areas are attempting to raise pole attachment fees and impose additional costs on cable operators and others. In addition, the favorable pole attachment rates afforded cable operators under federal law can be increased by utility companies if the operator provides telecommunications services, as well as cable service, over plant attached to utility poles. Any significant increased costs could have a material adverse impact on our profitability and discourage system upgrades and the introduction of new products and services.

We may be required to provide access to our networks to other Internet service providers, which could significantly increase our competition and adversely affect our ability to provide new products and services.

A number of companies, including telephone companies and Internet service providers, or ISPs, have requested local authorities and the FCC to require cable operators to provide non-discriminatory access to cable's broadband infrastructure, which allows cable to deliver a multitude of channels and/or services, so that these companies may deliver Internet services directly to customers over cable facilities. A federal court in each of California, Virginia and Florida has struck down open-access requirements imposed by a variety of franchising authorities as unlawful. Each of these decisions struck down the open-access requirements on different legal grounds. On October 6, 2003, however, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a decision holding that cable modem service is part telecommunications service and part information service. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal of that decision. If not overturned, the decision may lead to our having to contribute to the federal government's universal service fund, to comply with open access requirements, and to subject our high-speed data operations generally to other common carrier regulations.

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We believe that allocating a portion of our bandwidth capacity to other Internet service providers:

would impair our ability to use our bandwidth in ways that would generate maximum revenues; and

would strengthen our Internet service provider competitors by granting them access and lowering their costs to enter into our markets.

In addition, if we were required to provide access in this manner, it could have a significant adverse impact on our profitability. This requirement could impact us in many ways, including by:

increasing competition;

increasing the expenses we incur to maintain our systems; and/or

increasing the expense of upgrading and/or expanding our systems.

Changes in channel carriage regulations could impose significant additional costs on us.

Cable operators also face significant regulation of their channel carriage. They currently can be required to devote substantial capacity to the carriage of programming that they would not carry voluntarily, including certain local broadcast signals, local public, educational and government access programming, and unaffiliated commercial leased access programming. This carriage burden could increase in the future, particularly if cable systems were required to carry both the analog and digital versions of local broadcast signals (dual carriage) or to carry multiple program streams included with a single digital broadcast transmission (multicast carriage). Additional government mandated broadcast carriage obligations could disrupt existing programming commitments, interfere with our preferred use of limited channel capacity and limit our ability to offer services that would maximize customer appeal and revenue potential. Although the FCC issued a decision on February 10, 2005, confirming an earlier ruling against mandating either dual carriage or multicast carriage, that decision could be appealed or Congress could legislate addition carriage obligations.

Offering voice communications service may subject us to additional regulatory burdens, causing us to incur additional costs.

In 2002, we began to offer voice communications services on a limited basis over our broadband network. We continue to explore development and deployment of VOIP services. The regulatory requirements applicable to VOIP service are unclear although the FCC recently declared that certain VOIP services are not subject to traditional state public utility regulation. The full extent of the FCC preemption of VOIP services is not yet clear. Expanding our offering of these services may require us to obtain certain authorizations, including federal, state and local licenses. We may not be able to obtain such authorizations in a timely manner, or at all, and conditions could be imposed upon such licenses or authorizations that may not be favorable to us. Furthermore, telecommunications companies generally are subject to significant regulation, and it may be difficult or costly for us to comply with such regulations, were it to be determined that they applied to VOIP offerings such as ours. In addition, pole attachment rates are higher for providers of telecommunications services than for providers of cable service. If there were to be a final legal determination by the FCC, a state Public Utility Commission, or appropriate court that VOIP services are subject to these higher rates, our pole attachment costs could increase significantly, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Additional Risks Related to this Offering

The market price of our Class A common stock may be volatile, which could cause the value of your investment to decline.

It is impossible to predict whether the price of our Class A common stock will rise or fall. Trading prices of our Class A common stock will be influenced by our operating results and prospects and by economic, financial, regulatory and other factors. In addition, general market conditions, including the level of, and fluctuations in, the trading prices of stocks generally, and sales of substantial amounts of our

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Class A common stock by us in the market after this offering, or the perception that such sales may occur, could affect the price of our Class A common stock.

The price of our Class A common stock also could be affected by any sales of our Class A common stock by investors who view our recently issued 5.875% convertible senior notes as a more attractive means of equity participation in our company. Some investors in our Class A common stock may decide to sell some or all of their shares and purchase our 5.875% convertible senior notes instead. Such sales of our Class A common stock could cause the trading price to decline. The hedging or arbitrage trading activity that could develop with respect to our Class A common stock as a result of the November 2004 issuance of our 5.875% convertible senior notes could also cause a decline or retard any increase in the trading price of our Class A common stock since investors in the convertible senior notes may sell short our Class A common stock in order to establish initial hedge positions, and may increase those positions, particularly as the trading price of our Class A common stock increases, in order to hedge their 5.875% convertible senior notes. See Share Lending Agreement.

The market price of our Class A common stock could be adversely affected by the large number of additional shares of Class A common stock eligible for issuance in the future.

As of December 31, 2004, 305,203,770 shares of Class A common stock were issued and outstanding, and 50,000 shares of Class B common stock were issued and outstanding. An additional 339,132,031 shares of Class A common stock were issuable upon conversion of outstanding units of Charter Holdco (increasing by 24,273,943 shares if Mr. Allen is required to contribute his CC VIII membership interest to Charter Holdco), and 25,310,166 shares were issuable upon the exercise of outstanding options. An additional 356 million shares are now issuable upon conversion of our recently issued 5.875% convertible senior notes due 2009. In addition, additional shares and warrants to acquire shares are expected to be issued in connection with the settlement of certain outstanding litigation matters, as more fully described in Business Legal Proceedings. All of the 339,132,031 shares of Class A common stock issuable upon exchange of Charter Holdco membership units and all shares of the Class A common stock issuable upon conversion of shares of our Class B common stock will have demand and/or piggyback registration rights attached to them. All of the 356 million shares issuable upon conversion of the 5.875% convertible senior notes are expected to be eligible for resale pursuant to a shelf registration statement. The sale of a substantial number of shares of Class A common stock or the perception that such sales could occur could adversely affect the market price for the Class A common stock because the sale could cause the amount of the Class A common stock available for sale in the market to exceed the demand for the Class A common stock and could also make it more difficult for us to sell equity securities or equity-related securities in the future at a time and price that we deem appropriate. This could adversely affect our ability to fund our current and future obligations. See Shares Eligible for Future Sale.

The effect of the issuance of our shares of Class A common stock pursuant to the share lending agreement and upon conversion of the recently issued 5.875% convertible notes, including sales of our Class A common stock in short sale transactions by the holders of the 5.875% convertible notes, may have a negative effect on the market price of our Class A common stock.

We have agreed pursuant to a share lending agreement to lend to Citigroup Global Markets Limited the 150 million shares of our common stock that are being offered pursuant to this prospectus. In addition, in November 2004, we sold \$862.5 million original aggregate principal amount of 5.875% convertible senior notes due 2009, which are currently convertible into approximately 356 million shares of our Class A common stock. We have been advised by Citigroup Global Markets Limited that it or an affiliate intends to facilitate the establishment by holders of those convertible notes of hedged positions in the convertible notes. While issuance of shares upon the conversion of the convertible notes may result in a reduction of an equal number in the outstanding borrowed shares under the share lending agreement, the increase in the number of shares of our Class A common stock issued or issuable pursuant to the share lending agreement or upon conversion of the 5.875% convertible senior notes could have a negative effect on the

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market price of our Class A common stock. Since there will be more shares sold or available for sale, the market price of our Class A common stock may decline or not increase as much as it might have without the availability of such shares. The market price of our Class A common stock also could decline as a result of other short sales of our Class A common stock by the purchasers of the 5.875% convertible senior notes to hedge their investment in the convertible notes. We expect that many investors in our 5.875% convertible senior notes will hedge their investment by selling additional shares of our Class A common stock short in order to establish initial hedge positions, and that they may increase those positions as the market price of the Class A common stock increases, since such price increases will increase the likelihood that such holders will convert their 5.875% convertible senior notes and receive Class A common stock. Therefore, such short sales could retard any increase in the market price of our Class A common stock or cause a decline. See [Share Lending Agreement](#) and [Underwriting](#).

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USE OF PROCEEDS

None of the proceeds from the sale of our Class A common stock offered by this prospectus will be received by us. However, pursuant to the share lending agreement, we will receive a loan fee of \$0.001 for each share that we lend to Citigroup Global Markets Limited, which will be used for general corporate purposes. See Share Lending Agreement.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DIVIDEND POLICY**

Our Class A common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol CHTR. The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the range of high and low last reported sale price per share of Class A common stock on the Nasdaq National Market. There is no established trading market for our Class B common stock.

2005	High	Low
First Quarter through March 8	\$ 2.30	\$ 1.62
2004	High	Low
First Quarter	\$ 5.43	\$ 3.99
Second Quarter	\$ 4.70	\$ 3.61
Third Quarter	\$ 3.90	\$ 2.61
Fourth Quarter	\$ 3.01	\$ 2.03
2003	High	Low
First Quarter	\$ 1.73	\$ 0.76
Second Quarter	\$ 4.18	\$ 0.94
Third Quarter	\$ 5.50	\$ 3.32
Fourth Quarter	\$ 4.71	\$ 3.72
2002	High	Low
First Quarter	\$ 16.85	\$ 9.10
Second Quarter	\$ 11.53	\$ 2.96
Third Quarter	\$ 4.65	\$ 1.81
Fourth Quarter	\$ 2.27	\$ 0.76

As of December 31, 2004, there were 3,793 holders of record of our Class A common stock, one holder of our Class B common stock, and 13 holders of record of our Series A Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock.

The last reported sale price of our Class A common stock on the Nasdaq National Market on March 8, 2005 was \$1.65 per share.

We have never paid and do not expect to pay any cash dividends on our Class A common stock in the foreseeable future. Charter Holdco is required under certain circumstances to pay distributions pro rata to all its common members to the extent necessary for any common member to pay taxes incurred with respect to its share of taxable income attributed to Charter Holdco. Covenants in the indentures and credit agreements governing the debt of our subsidiaries restrict their ability to make distributions to us and, accordingly, limit our ability to declare or pay cash dividends. We intend to cause Charter Holdco and its subsidiaries to retain future earnings, if any, to finance the operation of the business of Charter Holdco and its subsidiaries.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth as of December 31, 2004, on a consolidated basis:

the actual (historical) capitalization of Charter;

The capitalization of Charter, on a pro forma basis to reflect:

- (1) the repayment of \$530 million of borrowings under Charter Operating's revolving credit facility with net proceeds from the issuance and sale of the CCO Holdings senior floating rate notes in December 2004, which were included in our cash balance at December 31, 2004;
- (2) the redemption of all of CC V Holdings' outstanding 11.875% senior discount notes due 2008 with cash on hand; and
- (3) the issuance of the shares offered hereby pursuant to a share lending agreement.

The following information should be read in conjunction with Selected Historical Consolidated Financial Data, Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	As of December 31, 2004	
	Actual	Pro Forma
	(Dollars in millions)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 650	\$ 1
Long-term debt:		
Charter Communications, Inc.:		
5.875% convertible senior notes due 2009(a)	\$ 834	\$ 834
4.75% convertible senior notes due 2006	156	156
Charter Holdings:		
Senior and senior discount notes(b)	8,579	8,579
CCH II:		
10.250% senior notes due 2010	1,601	1,601
CCO Holdings:		
8 3/4% senior notes due 2013	500	500
Senior floating rate notes due 2010	550	550
Charter Operating:		
8.000% senior second lien notes	1,100	1,100
8.375% senior second lien notes	400	400
Renaissance:		
10.00% senior discount notes due 2008	116	116
CC V Holdings:		
11.875% senior discount notes due 2008(c)	113	
Credit facilities:		
Charter Operating(d)	5,515	4,985
	19,464	18,821
Preferred stock redeemable(e)	55	55
Minority interest(f)	648	648

Shareholders deficit:

Class A common stock; \$.001 par value; 1.75 billion shares authorized;
305,203,770 and 455,203,770 shares issued and outstanding,
respectively(g)

Class B common stock; \$.001 par value; 750 million shares authorized;
50,000 shares issued and outstanding

Preferred stock; \$.001 par value; 250 million shares

Additional paid-in-capital	4,794	4,794
Accumulated deficit	(9,196)	(9,201)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(4)	(4)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total shareholders deficit	(4,406)	(4,411)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total capitalization	\$ 15,761	\$ 15,113
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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- (a) Represents \$863 million of 5.875% convertible senior notes of which \$30 million, related to certain provisions of the 5.875% convertible senior notes that for accounting purposes were derivatives which required bifurcation, was recorded as accounts payable and accrued expenses and other long-term liabilities with the resulting long-term debt of \$832 million. The debt has accreted to \$834 million at December 31, 2004 and will accrete to the \$863 million face value over three years, the duration of our pledged securities.

	As of December 31, 2004	
	Actual	Pro Forma
	(Dollars in millions)	
(b) Represents the following Charter Holdings notes:		
8.250% senior notes due 2007	\$ 451	\$ 451
8.625% senior notes due 2009	1,243	1,243
9.920% senior discount notes due 2011	1,108	1,108
10.000% senior notes due 2009	640	640
10.250% senior notes due 2010	318	318
11.750% senior discount notes due 2010	448	448
10.750% senior notes due 2009	874	874
11.125% senior notes due 2011	500	500
13.500% senior discount notes due 2011	589	589
9.625% senior notes due 2009	638	638
10.000% senior notes due 2011	708	708
11.750% senior discount notes due 2011	803	803
12.125% senior discount notes due 2012	259	259
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	\$8,579	\$8,579
	<hr/>	<hr/>

- (c) CCV Holdings, LLC has announced its intention to redeem these notes. See Description of Certain Indebtedness Outstanding Notes CCV Holdings, LLC Notes.
- (d) The amounts outstanding under the Charter Operating credit facilities as of December 31, 2004 totaled \$5.5 billion. Borrowing availability under the credit facilities totaled \$804 million as of December 31, 2004, none of which was restricted due to covenants and would have been approximately \$1.3 billion after giving pro forma effect to the events listed above.
- (e) In connection with Charter's acquisition of Cable USA, Inc. and certain cable system assets from affiliates of Cable USA, Inc., Charter issued 545,259 shares of Series A Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock valued at and with a liquidation preference of \$55 million. Holders of the preferred stock have no voting rights but are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends at an annual rate of 5.75%, payable quarterly. The preferred stock is redeemable by Charter at its option on or after August 31, 2004 and must be redeemed by Charter at any time upon a change of control, or if not previously redeemed or converted, on August 31, 2008. The preferred stock is convertible, in whole or in part, at the option of the holders from April 1, 2002 through August 31, 2008, into shares of Class A common stock at an initial conversion rate equal to a conversion price of \$24.71 per share of Class A common stock, subject to certain customary adjustments.
- (f) Minority interest represents the percentage of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC not owned by Charter, or approximately 53% of total members' equity of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC, plus \$656 million of preferred membership interests in CC VIII, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC. Paul G. Allen indirectly holds the preferred membership units in CC VIII as a result of the exercise of put rights originally granted in connection with the Bresnan transaction in 2000. An issue has arisen regarding the ultimate ownership of the CC VIII membership interests following the consummation of the Bresnan put transaction on June 6, 2003. See Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Transactions Arising Out of Our Organizational Structure and Mr. Allen's Investment in Charter and its Subsidiaries Equity Put Rights CC VIII. Reported losses allocated to minority interest on the statement of operations are limited to the extent of any remaining minority interest on the balance sheet related to Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC. Because minority interest in Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC was substantially eliminated at December 31, 2003, beginning in 2004, Charter began to absorb substantially all losses before income taxes that otherwise would have been allocated to minority interest. Under our existing capital structure, Charter will absorb substantially all future losses.

- (g) Although the shares offered by this prospectus will be considered issued and outstanding, we do not expect they will impact earnings per share under current accounting literature. See Share Lending Agreement.

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UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following unaudited pro forma consolidated financial statements are based on the historical consolidated financial statements of Charter, adjusted on a pro forma basis to reflect the following transactions as if they had occurred on December 31, 2004 (for the unaudited pro forma consolidated balance sheet) and on January 1, 2004 (for the unaudited pro forma consolidated statement of operations):

(1) the disposition of certain assets in March and April 2004, with proceeds used to pay down credit facilities;

(2) the issuance and sale of the CCO Holdings senior floating rate notes in December 2004 and the Charter Operating senior second lien notes in April 2004 with proceeds used to refinance or repay outstanding debt and for general corporate purposes;

(3) an increase in amounts outstanding under the Charter Operating credit facilities in April 2004 and the use of such funds, together with the proceeds of the sale of the Charter Operating senior second lien notes, to refinance amounts outstanding under the credit facilities of our subsidiaries, CC VI Operating, CC VIII Operating and Falcon;

(4) the repayment of \$530 million of borrowings under the Charter Operating revolving credit facility with net proceeds from the issuance and sale of the CCO Holdings senior floating rate notes in December 2004, which were included in our cash balance at December 31, 2004;

(5) the redemption of all of CC V Holdings outstanding 11.875% senior discount notes due 2008 with cash on hand;

(6) the issuance and sale of \$863 million of 5.875% convertible senior notes in November 2004 with proceeds used for (i) the purchase of certain U.S. government securities pledged as security for the 5.875% convertible senior notes (and which we expect to use to fund the first six interest payments thereon), (ii) redemption of outstanding 5.75% convertible senior notes due 2005 and (iii) general corporate purposes; and

(7) the issuance of the shares offered hereby pursuant to a share lending agreement. See Share Lending Agreement.

The unaudited pro forma adjustments are based on information available to us as of the date of this prospectus and certain assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. The Unaudited Pro Forma Consolidated Financial Statements required allocation of certain revenues and expenses and such information has been presented for comparative purposes and is not intended (a) to provide any indication of what our actual financial position or results of operations would have been had the transactions described above been completed on the dates indicated or (b) to project our results of operations for any future date.

Table of Contents**CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS****For the Year Ended December 31, 2004**

	Historical	Asset Dispositions (Note A)	Financing Transactions (Note B)	Subtotal	Offering Adjustments (Note C)	Pro Forma
(Dollars in millions, except per share and share amounts)						
Revenues						
Video	\$ 3,373	\$ (21)	\$	\$ 3,352	\$	\$ 3,352
High-speed data	741	(3)		738		738
Advertising	289	(1)		288		288
Commercial	238	(2)		236		236
Other	336	(2)		334		334
	<u>4,977</u>	<u>(29)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4,948</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4,948</u>
Costs and Expenses						
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization)	2,080	(12)		2,068		2,068
Selling, general and administrative	971	(4)		967		967
Depreciation and amortization	1,495	(6)		1,489		1,489
Impairments of franchises	2,433			2,433		2,433
Gain (loss) on sale of assets, net	(86)	105		19		19
Option compensation expense, net	31			31		31
Special charges, net	104			104		104
Unfavorable contracts and other settlements	(5)			(5)		(5)
	<u>7,023</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7,106</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>7,106</u>
Loss from operations	(2,046)	(112)		(2,158)		(2,158)
Interest expense, net	(1,670)	4	(33)	(1,699)	(10)	(1,709)
Gain on derivative instruments and hedging activities, net	69			69		69
Loss on debt to equity conversions	(23)			(23)		(23)
Loss on extinguishment of debt	(31)		21	(10)	10	3
Other, net	3			3		3
	<u>(1,652)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>(12)</u>	<u>(1,660)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(1,660)</u>
Loss before minority interest, income taxes, and cumulative effect of accounting change	(3,698)	(108)	(12)	(3,818)		(3,818)
Minority interest	19			19		19
Loss before income taxes and cumulative effect of accounting change	(3,679)	(108)	(12)	(3,799)		(3,799)
Income tax benefit	103	14		117		117

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Loss before cumulative effect of accounting change	\$ (3,576)	\$ (94)	\$ (12)	\$ (3,682)	\$	\$ (3,682)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Loss per common share, basic and diluted	\$ (11.92)					\$ (12.27)
	<u> </u>					<u> </u>
Weighted average common shares outstanding, basic and diluted (Note D)	300,291,877					300,291,877
	<u> </u>					<u> </u>

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Note A: Represents the elimination of operating results related to the disposition of certain assets in March and April 2004 and a reduction of interest expense related to the use of the net proceeds from such sales to repay a portion of our subsidiaries' credit facilities.

Note B: Represents adjustment to interest expense associated with the completion of the financing transactions discussed in pro forma assumptions two through five (in millions):

Interest on the Charter Operating senior second lien notes and the amended and restated Charter Operating credit facilities at a weighted average rate of 4.9%	\$ 114
Interest on CCO Holdings senior floating rate notes	35
Amortization of deferred financing costs	10
Less:	
Historical interest expense for Charter Operating credit facilities and on subsidiary credit facilities repaid	(83)
Historical interest expense for Charter Operating's revolving credit facility repaid with cash on hand	(30)
Historical interest expense for the CCV Holdings 11.875% senior discount notes due 2008 repaid with cash on hand.	(13)
	<hr/>
Net increase in interest expense for other financing transactions	\$ 33
	<hr/>

Adjustment to loss on extinguishment of debt represents the elimination of the write-off of deferred financing fees and third party costs related to the Charter Operating refinancing in April 2004.

Note C: Represents the increase in interest expense from the issuance of \$863 million of convertible senior notes due 2009 with a stated interest rate of 5.875% and the amortization of deferred debt issuance cost associated with such issuance reduced by the use of proceeds to retire \$588 million of the 5.75% convertible senior notes due in 2005 and the interest on the \$144 million of securities purchased and pledged as security for interest payments on such debt (in millions):

Interest on the convertible senior notes issued in November 2004	\$ 45
Amortization of deferred debt issuance costs	4
Less interest from the pledged securities	(2)
Less interest on 5.75% convertible senior notes retired with proceeds	(37)
	<hr/>
Pro forma interest expense adjustment	\$ 10
	<hr/>

Adjustment to loss on extinguishment of debt represents the elimination of the premium paid to retire the 5.75% convertible senior notes and the write-off of the related deferred financing fees.

Note D: Loss per common share, basic and diluted assumes none of the membership units of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC are exchanged for Charter common stock and none of the outstanding options to purchase membership units of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC that are automatically exchanged for Charter common stock are exercised. Basic loss per share equals loss before cumulative effect of accounting change less dividends on preferred stock-redeemable divided by weighted average shares outstanding. If the membership units were exchanged or options exercised, the effects would be antidilutive. Therefore, basic and diluted loss per common share is the same.

Table of Contents**CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.****UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**

As of December 31, 2004

	Historical	Financing Transactions (Note A)	Pro Forma
(Dollars in millions)			
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 650	\$(649)	\$ 1
Accounts receivable, net	190		190
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	82		82
	<u>922</u>	<u>(649)</u>	<u>273</u>
INVESTMENT IN CABLE PROPERTIES:			
Property, plant and equipment, net	6,289		6,289
Franchises, net	9,878		9,878
	<u>16,167</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>16,167</u>
OTHER NONCURRENT ASSETS			
	584		584
	<u>584</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>584</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 17,673</u>	<u>\$(649)</u>	<u>\$ 17,024</u>
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIT			
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,217	\$ (1)	\$ 1,216
	<u>1,217</u>	<u>(1)</u>	<u>1,216</u>
LONG-TERM DEBT			
	19,464	(643)	18,821
	<u>19,464</u>	<u>(643)</u>	<u>18,821</u>
DEFERRED MANAGEMENT FEES RELATED PARTY			
	14		14
	<u>14</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>14</u>
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES			
	681		681
	<u>681</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>681</u>
MINORITY INTEREST			
	648		648
	<u>648</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>648</u>
PREFERRED STOCK-REDEEMABLE			
	55		55
	<u>55</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>55</u>
SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIT:			
Class A common stock			
Class B common stock			
Preferred stock			
Additional paid-in capital	4,794		4,794
Accumulated deficit	(9,196)	(5)	(9,201)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(4)		(4)
	<u>(4)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(4)</u>
Total shareholders deficit	<u>(4,406)</u>	<u>(5)</u>	<u>(4,411)</u>

Total liabilities and shareholders' deficit	<u>\$17,673</u>	<u>\$(649)</u>	<u>\$17,024</u>
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Note A: Represents the use of cash to repay \$530 million of amounts outstanding under the Charter Operating revolving credit facility and to redeem \$113 million of CC V Holdings 11.875% senior discount notes for the face amount plus a premium of \$5 million and accrued interest of \$1 million.

Table of Contents**SELECTED HISTORICAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table presents summary financial and other data for Charter and its subsidiaries and has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Charter and its subsidiaries for the five years ended December 31, 2004. The consolidated financial statements of Charter and its subsidiaries for the years ended December 31, 2000 to 2004 have been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. The following information should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the historical consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this prospectus.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
(Dollars in millions, except share and per share amounts)					
Statement of Operations Data:					
Revenues	\$ 3,141	\$ 3,807	\$ 4,566	\$ 4,819	\$ 4,977
Costs and Expenses:					
Operating (excluding depreciation and amortization)	1,187	1,486	1,807	1,952	2,080
Selling, general and administrative	606	826	963	940	971
Depreciation and amortization	2,398	2,683	1,436	1,453	1,495
Impairment of franchises			4,638		2,433
(Gain) loss on sale of assets, net		10	3	5	(86)
Option compensation expense (income), net	38	(5)	5	4	31
Special charges, net		18	36	21	104
Unfavorable contracts and other settlements				(72)	(5)
	4,229	5,018	8,888	4,303	7,023
Income (loss) from operations	(1,088)	(1,211)	(4,322)	516	(2,046)
Interest expense, net	(1,040)	(1,310)	(1,503)	(1,557)	(1,670)
Gain (loss) on derivative instruments and hedging activities, net		(50)	(115)	65	69
Loss on debt to equity conversions					(23)
Gain (loss) on extinguishment of debt				267	(31)
Other, net	(20)	(59)	(4)	(16)	3
Loss before minority interest, income taxes and cumulative effect of accounting change	(2,148)	(2,630)	(5,944)	(725)	(3,698)
Minority interest	1,280	1,461	3,176	377	19
Loss before income taxes and cumulative effect of accounting change	(868)	(1,169)	(2,768)	(348)	(3,679)
Income tax benefit (expense)	10	12	460	110	103
Loss before cumulative effect of accounting change	(858)	(1,157)	(2,308)	(238)	(3,576)
Cumulative effect of accounting change, net of tax		(10)	(206)		(765)
Net loss	(858)	(1,167)	(2,514)	(238)	(4,341)
Dividends on preferred stock - redeemable		(1)	(3)	(4)	(4)
Net loss applicable to common stock	\$ (858)	\$ (1,168)	\$ (2,517)	\$ (242)	\$ (4,345)

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Loss per common share, basic and diluted	\$ (3.80)	\$ (4.33)	\$ (8.55)	\$ (0.82)	\$ (14.47)
Weighted-average common shares outstanding, basic and diluted	225,697,775	269,594,386	294,440,261	294,597,519	300,291,877
Other Data:					
Deficiencies of earnings to cover fixed charges(a)	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,630	\$ 5,944	\$ 725	\$ 3,698
Balance Sheet Data (end of period):					
Total assets	\$ 24,352	\$ 26,463	\$ 22,384	\$ 21,364	\$ 17,673
Long-term debt	13,061	16,343	18,671	18,647	19,464
Minority interest(b)	4,571	4,434	1,050	689	648
Redeemable securities	1,104				
Preferred stock - redeemable		51	51	55	55
Shareholders' equity (deficit)	2,767	2,585	41	(175)	(4,406)

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- (a) Earnings include net loss plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and an estimated interest component of rent expense.
- (b) Minority interest represents the percentage of Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC not owned by Charter, plus preferred membership interests in CC VIII, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter. Paul G. Allen indirectly holds the preferred membership units in CC VIII, LLC as a result of the exercise of a put right originally granted in connection with the Bresnan transaction in 2000. An issue has arisen regarding the ultimate ownership of the CC VIII, LLC membership interest following the consummation of the Bresnan put transaction on June 6, 2003. See Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Transactions Arising Out of Our Organizational Structure and Mr. Allen's Investment in Charter and Its Subsidiaries Equity Put Rights CC VIII. Reported losses allocated to minority interest on the statement of operations are limited to the extent of any remaining minority interest on the balance sheet related to Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC. Because minority interest in Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC was substantially eliminated at December 31, 2003, beginning in 2004, Charter began to absorb substantially all losses before income taxes that otherwise would have been allocated to minority interest. As a result of negative equity at Charter Communications Holding Company, LLC, during the year ended December 31, 2004, no additional losses were allocated to minority interest, resulting in an approximate additional \$2.4 billion of net losses. Under our existing capital structure, Charter will absorb substantially all future losses.

Table of Contents**SUPPLEMENTARY QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA**

The following tables present quarterly financial data for the periods presented on the consolidated statements of operations (Dollars in millions, except share and per share amounts):

	Year Ended December 31, 2004			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenues	\$ 1,214	\$ 1,239	\$ 1,248	\$ 1,276