

Smith Bagley, Inc.

February 19, 2019

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Eighth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, Consolidated Applications for Consent To Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 18-197*

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of Smith Bagley, Inc., dba Cellular One of North East Arizona (“Cellular One”), I am writing to express our support for the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint.

Cellular One currently serves customers in northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and southern Utah. As a smaller-sized regional and rural facilities-based wireless carrier, Cellular One has built its business by providing excellent customer service and taking an interest in subscribers living in rural areas and on Tribal Lands. Cellular One operates the most extensive commercial mobile wireless network serving the Navajo Nation, Zuni Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Ramah Navajo in the Four Corners region of the United States, an area roughly the size of Georgia. Starting with three employees over twenty years ago, Cellular One has grown to employ close to 200 people, a quarter of which are Native American. Almost all of our employees are drawn from local communities in Arizona and New Mexico. SBI currently serves about 110,000 customers—including 64,000 low-income households, mostly on Tribal Lands—who rely on Cellular One to provide wireless communication services, including telephony, data and broadband services.

A combined T-Mobile and Sprint will enable Cellular One to deliver new and higher quality services to our customers. Regional carriers serving rural and Tribal areas, which disproportionately lack access to broadband, face many challenges. One of these challenges is being able to offer reliable, high-quality mobile wireless service to customers when they travel outside of our network’s home area. Strong roaming arrangements are therefore critical to our continued success. Because of our long-term roaming agreement with T-Mobile, Cellular One has been able to fully support our customers despite our limited footprint. Roaming agreements help level the playing field and are essential in maintaining our customer base.

Partnering with the New T-Mobile, which is expected to deliver broader coverage and faster speeds, also provides Cellular One a vital marketing tool in maintaining, and possibly growing, our customer base which increasingly demands connectivity wherever they go.

Finally, because of our long-term spectrum lease agreement with T-Mobile, Cellular One will be able to extend and improve our capabilities in Apache, Navajo, Gila, Greenlee, and Graham counties in Arizona, areas where the need for reliable wireless broadband service is most acute. Increased access to broadband will translate into increased employment opportunities, better access to education and healthcare, and greater civic engagement in those Tribal and rural communities.

The New T-Mobile promises to deliver faster speeds, better coverage, and greater capacity. Cellular One looks forward to ensuring New T-Mobile delivers on these promises to the benefit of Cellular One's customers, in particular, those living and working in rural areas and on Tribal Lands.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Justin E. Hinkle
Chief Executive Officer
Smith Bagley, Inc.

cc: Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Geoffrey Starks
Donald Stockdale, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
David Lawrence, Task Force Director, Office of General Counsel