



NAPA COUNTY
FARM BUREAU

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

RE: Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, WT Docket No. 18-197

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The Napa County Farm Bureau has served members for more than 100 years, using the guiding philosophy that we can accomplish more for the good of agriculture by working together rather than individually. Our more than 700 local farmers and ranchers and others who are involved in the production of agriculture in California work to support policies and programs that allow our producers to grow and succeed.

One of the more important issues for agriculture in the 21st century is the availability and access to the internet. Agriculture is a business, and like other businesses, internet access is a critical part of how agriculture works. In addition to the routine parts of business, such as email communications and online ordering of supplies, technology is increasingly supporting the work farmers and ranchers do.

The merger of T-Mobile with Sprint will help rural communities by expanding access to high-speed internet. The accelerated deployment of a 5G network will deliver important public interest benefits to rural communities.

Innovative tech allows viticulturists and other farmers to increase yields and grow better crops. Remote sensors, for example, can help farmers prevent the spread of vineyard diseases, such as leafroll viruses that stunt grapevine growth, and of invasive pests, such as the European grapevine moth that can cause significant damage to grape clusters. Vineyard owners also can benefit from closely monitoring microclimate conditions – both to conserve water resources through timely and selective irrigation and to attend to particular sites as a means of enhancing wine quality. But all of this technology depends on having access to a consistent, dependable network that can handle traffic from thousands or tens of thousands of devices. The 5G network that T-Mobile has proposed

to deploy following its merger with Sprint would provide that dependability and will allow our members to benefit from the ongoing technological revolution in “smart agriculture.”

Rural communities would also benefit from high-speed internet. Schools and local businesses would benefit, and residents of rural communities would be able to access reliable in-home broadband. We urge the FCC to support the application of T-Mobile and Sprint and approve the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan P. Klobas', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ryan P. Klobas , JD
Chief Executive Officer
Napa County Farm Bureau