

Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Makan Delrahim
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim and Chairman Pai,

Our constituents and organizations rely on wireless service for vital communications services across Pennsylvania. In today's economy and society, we all depend on quality, affordable wireless communications services. But we fear that the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint, the third and fourth largest wireless companies, is bad news for consumers and workers. As we see it, the merger will reduce consumer choice, competition, jobs, workers' wages, and raise prices for consumers. This is not in the public interest.

We have seen evidence that eliminating competition between T-Mobile and Sprint will raise prices as much as 15.5 percent, with particular impact on low- and moderate-income customers. Many of these customers rely on their smartphones for Internet access. Price increases of this magnitude could mean families have to drop their wireless data plans, making it even harder for children to do online research and for adults to access employment information, government services, health care applications, and so many other vital services that are available over the Internet.

There are all too many rural communities in Pennsylvania that still do not have access to high-speed broadband, or even any broadband connectivity. T-Mobile and Sprint have largely built their networks in urban areas. As we understand it, the spectrum assets that Sprint brings to this merger are not well suited for rural areas. Therefore, we do not see how this merger will help rural Pennsylvania.

T-Mobile and Sprint, and their authorized dealers, operate more than 770 retail stores across the state. A detailed analysis by the Communications Workers of America predicts that if the merger is approved, the new T-Mobile would shutter more than 168 duplicative stores, eliminating 635 retail jobs and dozens of small business authorized dealers in Pennsylvania. In addition, fewer employers means reduced competition for labor, which leads to lower wages and benefits.

We are confident that your agencies will conduct a thorough review of the proposed T-Mobile/Sprint merger to ensure compliance with anti-trust, consumer protection, and public interest standards. We cannot support a merger that would result in higher prices and fewer choices for wireless consumers, job loss for wireless workers, and increased risk to our nation's security.

Sincerely,

Senator Lindsey Williams, Pennsylvania Senate District 38

Senator Katie Muth, Pennsylvania Senate District 44

Representative Patrick Harkins, Pennsylvania 1st Legislative District

Representative Robert E. Merski, Pennsylvania 2nd Legislative District

Representative Mark Longiotti, Pennsylvania 7th Legislative District

Representative Gene DiGirolamo, Pennsylvania 18th Legislative District

Representative Jake Wheatley, Pennsylvania 19th Legislative District

Representative Adam Ravenstahl, Pennsylvania 20th Legislative District

Representative Sara Innamorato, Pennsylvania 21st Legislative District

Representative Dan Frankel, Pennsylvania 23rd Legislative District

Representative Ed Gainey, Pennsylvania 24th Legislative District

Representative Brandon Markosek, Pennsylvania 25th Legislative District

Representative Daniel Deasy, Pennsylvania 27th Legislative District

Representative Frank Dermody, Pennsylvania 33rd Legislative District

Representative Summer Lee, Pennsylvania 34th Legislative District

Representative Austin Davis, Pennsylvania 35th Legislative District

Representative Harry Readshaw, Pennsylvania 36th Legislative District

Representative William C. Kortz II, Pennsylvania 38th Legislative District

Representative Dan Miller, Pennsylvania 42nd Legislative District

Representative Anita Astorino Kulik, Pennsylvania 45th Legislative District

Representative Pam Snyder, Pennsylvania 50th Legislative District

Representative Steven R. Malagari, Pennsylvania 53rd Legislative District

Representative Tom Mehaffie, Pennsylvania 106th Legislative District

Representative Maureen E. Madden, Pennsylvania 115th Legislative District

Representative Eddie Day Pashinski, Pennsylvania 121st Legislative District

Representative Robert L. Freeman, Pennsylvania 136th Legislative District

Representative Stephen McCarter, Pennsylvania 154th Legislative District

Representative Leanne Krueger, Pennsylvania 161st Legislative District

Representative Jennifer O'Mara, Pennsylvania 165th Legislative District

Representative Ed Neilson, Pennsylvania 174th Legislative District

Representative Joseph Hohenstein, Pennsylvania 177th Legislative District

Representative Jordan A. Harris, Pennsylvania 186th Legislative District
Representative Christopher M. Rabb, Pennsylvania 200th Legislative District

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Raise the Wage PA

215 People's Alliance

Keystone Research Center

Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania

Asian Americans United

Pennsylvania Domestic Workers Alliance

Media Mobilizing Project

Pittsburgh United

Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH)

Philadelphia Jobs with Justice

cc: Pennsylvania Congressional delegation
Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro