

March 14, 2019

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

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

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation
WT Docket No. 18-197, MB Docket No. 05-311**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 12, 2019, Lee Schroeder, Executive Vice President, Government & Community Affairs of Altice USA, Inc. (“Altice”), together with her counsel from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Jennifer Richter, met with Nicholas Degani, Senior Counsel to Chairman Pai and Rachael Bender, Wireless and International Advisor to Chairman Pai.

Altice provided an overview of current strategic initiatives to bring robust broadband, and competitive wireless service, to its customers nationwide. As a company, Altice is focused on deep fiber deployment and building broadband infrastructure. For example, Altice offers speeds of 1 Gbps to the majority of its Suddenlink customers. Altice explained how its focus on building broadband infrastructure informed its decision to enter the market as a full infrastructure-based Mobile Virtual Network Operators (“iMVNO”). Altice can leverage its fixed network to provide an extremely competitive facilities-based mobile service, but that service is dependent on a functioning wholesale market – a market that is diminished by the combination of Sprint and T-Mobile.

Altice explained that the proposed merger of Sprint and T-Mobile will limit or eliminate new sources of retail wireless competition because it will end the only wholesale competition in the market today between Sprint and T-Mobile. Robust retail wireless competition from Altice and other cable interests, and the ensuing benefit to consumers, is contingent on a competitive wholesale market. As Altice has described in detail in its prior filings, the New T-Mobile will have no incentives to support the wholesale market. The Altice view today is that the best outcome for all consumers is for the Commission to deny the applications of Sprint and T-Mobile.

Altice also emphasized the importance of the Commission taking action to streamline Section 621 of the Cable Communications Policy Act, as amended, to enable increased competition in the video marketplace.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer L. Richter
Jennifer L. Richter