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March 18, 2019  
*VIA ECFS*

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b), notice is hereby provided of a written *ex parte* presentation in the above-referenced docket. The proposed merger of T-Mobile US, Inc. ("T-Mobile") and Sprint Corporation ("Sprint" and, collectively with T-Mobile, "Applicants") has received tremendous bipartisan support from organizations and individuals throughout the United States. Many of these supporters have expressed their excitement for the benefits the merger will bring—including reduced prices, increased competition, and an inclusive nationwide 5G network—in opinion commentary in publications across the country. The attached opinion commentary support the proposed merger of the Applicants.

Authors of the attached opinions include:

- **Alan Pratt**, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association
- **Anna Eshoo**, U.S. Representative, California's 18th District
- **Andrea Rice**, Member, Missouri Farm Bureau
- **Barry Hobbins**, Public Advocate, Maine
- **Billy Tauzin**, Former U.S. Representative, Louisiana's 3rd District
- **Brad Nash**, VP of Regional Field Sales – Southeast, T-Mobile
- **Broderick Johnson**, Former Assistant and Cabinet Secretary, President Obama's White House
- **Chris Telfer**, Western Utilities Transformer Service, Exeter, California
- **Christopher Wood**, Executive Director, LGBT Tech
- **David Biddle**, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- **Geoff Why**, Former Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable



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- **Henry Waxman**, Former Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and U.S. Representative, California's 33rd District
- **James Glassman**, Former Undersecretary of State
- **John Kneuer**, former Administrator for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- **John Sununu**, Former U.S. Senator, New Hampshire and Former U.S. Representative, New Hampshire's 1st District
- **Kris Johnson**, President, Association of Washington Business
- **Maria Echaveste**, Senior Fellow, Center for Latin American Studies, UC Berkeley and the Opportunity Institute, and Former Deputy Chief of Staff, President Clinton's White House
- **Martha Coakley**, Former Attorney General, Massachusetts and Rob McKenna, Former Attorney General, Washington
- **Martin Simmons**, Apprise Video Productions & Photography, Milton, Florida
- **Michael Schindler**, Veteran and Founder and CEO, Operation Military Family Cares
- **Michelle Connolly**, Professor of the Practice in the Economics Department, Duke University and Former FCC Chief Economist
- **Mignon Clyburn**, Former FCC Commissioner
- **Nathan White**, Soybean Grower, Norborne, Missouri
- **Richard Mroz**, Former President, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and Former Chairman, NARUC Critical Infrastructure Committee
- **Rob McDowell**, Former FCC Commissioner
- **Robert Romano**, Vice President, Public Policy, Americans for Limited Government
- **Ron Brisé**, Former Public Service Commissioner, Florida
- **The Seattle Times Editorial Board**
- **Sheridan Wimmer**, Kansas Farm Bureau
- **Susan Moore**, Litigation Paralegal, Pensacola, Florida
- **Suzanne Gleed**, Real Estate Agent, Lehi, Utah
- **Tracey Osborne Oltjen**, President and CEO, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
- **Victor Lopez**, Mayor, Orange Cove, California and Chairman, Central Valley Latino Mayors and Elected Officials Coalition
- **William Lehr**, Economist and Research Scientist, Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **William Rappleye**, President and CEO, Draper Area Chamber of Commerce



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Please direct any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned counsel for T-Mobile.

Respectfully submitted,

**DLA Piper LLP (US)**

*/s/ Nancy J. Victory*

Nancy J. Victory  
Partner

NV

cc: Kathy Harris  
Catherine Matraves  
Linda Ray  
Jim Bird  
David Krech

**ATTACHMENT**

## T-Mobile-Sprint merger will help rural students succeed | Opinion

Allen Pratt, Guest Columnist Published 5:35 p.m. CT March 12, 2019 | Updated 5:45 p.m. CT March 12, 2019

*The digital divide isn't new to rural America, but the trend is worsening. Regional economies are driven by connectivity, so technology access is key.*

Lawmakers in Washington are addressing a huge problem facing their rural constituents: the inadequate state of rural broadband access in our country. As they study the T-Mobile-Sprint merger, it should quickly become clear that the deal would be a huge win for rural teachers, students, and their families.

As the executive director of the National Rural Education Association, one of my top priorities is integrating technology to meet the needs of rural schools. Currently, however, many rural areas cannot benefit from the latest technological advancements because they lack access to modern broadband. 5G, the next generation of networking and technology, will enable transformative educational resources and greater opportunities for the students who have access.

After they merge, T-Mobile and Sprint will offer nationwide 5G to rural and urban communities across the country, including for millions of Americans who currently lack broadband access. That's why, like lawmakers from both parties, I support the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint.

### Access to technology is key to growth

The digital divide isn't new to rural America, but the trend is getting worse. Before the internet connected millions of American homes to boundless online resources, students had to rely on textbooks and other physical records to study and do their homework.

While students in rural communities had to travel farther distances to reach a library than their suburban and urban counterparts, everyone was on equal footing, more or less. Now, unequal access to broadband is hindering rural communities and students.

Indeed, regional economies are driven by innovative and connected communities, and so access to technology in educational settings is key to growth. In a new study, researchers from Old Dominion University and the University of South Dakota interviewed rural students and other residents to understand the unique obstacles they face to getting online. They found that many rural residents are forced to subscribe to two different cellular plans—one that works at home, and another that works at school or work.

In 2017, T-Mobile spent nearly \$8 billion to acquire new licenses to build out a stronger nationwide network in rural areas and throughout the country. In less than 18 months since receiving its licenses, T-Mobile has already deployed service on this new spectrum across 43 states and Puerto Rico, including in many rural areas.

Adding Sprint's high-capacity spectrum to T-Mobile expansive coverage will give the New T-Mobile both deep capacity and broad coverage. That's why I'm optimistic that T-Mobile will change the status quo for rural communities.

## **5G should serve rural students too**

A nationwide 5G network that broadly serves rural communities, like the one the combined T-Mobile and Sprint plan to create, will be crucial to ensuring a seamless broadband experience in rural America.

After the merger, the New T-Mobile will build upon its improved network to provide connectivity to more than 95 percent of rural Americans. What's more, millions of rural residents will have access to in-home broadband service as a result of the merger.

As separate companies, T-Mobile and Sprint already are strong allies for students. They have indicated that this commitment will only strengthen after they merge. For example, the New T-Mobile will continue Sprint's 1Million Project, which helps bridge the digital divide by providing underserved high school students with internet access and devices.

5G is approaching fast, and it will need to be implemented with the needs of rural students in mind. Policymakers should approve of efforts that will advance this goal and narrow the digital divide, including the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint.

*Dr. Allen Pratt is executive director of the National Rural Education Association, based in Chattanooga.*



## Op-Ed: Consumers Will Benefit From T-Mobile-Sprint Merger

By Anna Eshoo | March 5, 2019

The Fly's Feb. 20 column "[Eshoo Flip-Flops on Big Telecom Mergers](#)" implies that because I opposed AT&T's bid to acquire T-Mobile in 2011, I have flipped my position on big telecommunication mergers.

Yes, I support the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, and here is why.

Today we have four wireless companies. Some say four is better than three. We actually have a duopoly, AT&T and Verizon. They control approximately two-thirds of the market and have for the last 15 years.

Americans pay some of the highest prices for mobile wireless service in the developed world, they have fewer choices when it comes to providers, and the quality of service, particularly in rural America, leaves much to be desired.

We can't measure competition in this market simply by the total number of carriers. We have to look at what these carriers are capable of providing to their customers. T-Mobile has a strong track record as an aggressive competitor. The company has helped lower prices, eliminated contracts, and promoted pro-consumer policies.

Sprint has also competed for market share in recent years, but the company is carrying \$40 billion in debt. They can't make the necessary investments to build out their network and compete with the top two carriers, and many believe they are heading toward bankruptcy. What Sprint *does have* is spectrum.

Merging pro-consumer T-Mobile with Sprint's spectrum holdings will create a new company with eight times the network capacity and the ability to aggressively compete for new customers by offering competitive prices for better service, and expand into underserved and unserved regions of America.

Consumers will be the ones who benefit from this competition.

During my service in Congress, I've opposed many mergers. I take a back seat to no one on my pro-consumer record and my efforts regarding competition. I evaluate every policy before me through the lens of competition and consumers. I support this merger because we have a rigid market dominated for decades by the same two carriers and this must change. Turning the wireless market on its head is the only flip I'm concerned with.

*Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto) has served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee since 1995.*

<http://www.sanjoseinside.com/2019/03/05/op-ed-consumers-will-benefit-from-t-mobile-sprint-merger/>

## ***OP ED: Rural Missourians to benefit from T-Mobile and Sprint combining***

*By Andrea Rice, Member, Missouri Farm Bureau | MAY 24, 2018*

The announcement of the T-Mobile and Sprint merger should bring excitement and a sense of innovation – especially for the people of rural Missouri and emergency responders. The new T-Mobile will lead the creation of a nationwide 5G network with the scope needed to develop massive improvements for the United States, with an extra glimmer of hope felt by families living in rural areas.

I'm thankful to live on a farm in rural Missouri with my husband and three children. Although we enjoy the tranquil atmosphere associated with our rural lifestyle, there is still much need for access to technology. It isn't uncommon for livestock to be equipped with tags allowing for farm-to-table data or precision practices for row crop production. This gives farmers the ability to use natural resources to their maximum potential while respecting their limitations. There is no sign of this relationship between production agriculture and technology changing any time soon, especially with the implementation of a nationwide 5G network.

For example, there are already pilot programs for “smart farming” and agricultural IoT (internet of things) devices, which would provide better measurement of production on a day-to-day basis. This could be in the form of sensors communicating moisture, fertilization and nutrient levels or predicted data for weather patterns to improve crop management and livestock analysis. This all requires a broadly available nationwide network – not one isolated to hotspots or in urban areas only. Smart farming will be absolutely necessary in order to assist farmers in feeding an ever-increasing population and combatting the unknown stresses of weather.

In addition, businesses and families in these rural communities rarely have the opportunity to choose from more than one or two wireless, broadband or cable providers. However, with the combination of T-Mobile and Sprint, the possibility of more robust competition is becoming a reality. Competition that will be created by having a stronger wireless company providing more rural coverage means a better product at a better price.



With a nationwide 5G network in place, emergency responses and patient care should also experience benefits. In situations where every second counts, technology could dramatically improve patient care in rural areas. With 5G networks, improved mapping and real-time data will lead to decreased emergency response time. Also, patient data could be transmitted, allowing doctors in the emergency room to have a visual of the patient while in transport. For example, a doctor could request and view a CT scan before the patient arrives, allowing the medical team to prepare accordingly.

It is not uncommon for people in rural areas to travel over 60 miles to a hospital or 200 miles for a healthcare specialist. 5G technology could also be utilized for rural clinics to provide accurate information to specialists. With 5G networks, it could be possible for patients to wear medical sensors remotely with vital signs transmitted to their respected health care providers.

There are already doctors utilizing consultations with the use of webcams and 5G technology would take this to the next level.

The combination of T-Mobile and Sprint will take today's wireless technology from Ford's Model T to Tesla's Model X. With the new T-Mobile, resources will be available that should provide consumers with lower prices, higher quality products and increased competition. Rural Missourians will benefit greatly with more options for broadband and improved emergency services. The combined company will be a win-win and should be approved by all necessary parties.



## T-Mobile merger could be a gamechanger for broadband connectivity

By Barry Hobbins • August 27, 2018 12:56 pm

When I first walked into the Maine State House as a young legislator, I knew my mission: advance the livelihoods of Mainers. Even after 25 years in the Legislature as a representative and senator, my mission has remained the same.

Today, as Maine's public advocate, and as a former private attorney with extensive telecommunications experience, I believe the proposed T-Mobile-Sprint merger will be beneficial for Maine consumers and our economy.

Though I did not represent T-Mobile or Sprint while in private practice, I have been following the proposed merger since [it was announced in April](#). I was interested in how this merger would impact consumers, jobs and rural communities. Having scrutinized numerous deals and mergers, I believe that this one has numerous benefits for Maine and the whole country.

Since first launching its "Un-carrier" initiative in March 2013, T-Mobile has led the industry in competitive pricing, notably putting an end to two-year wireless contracts, which all major U.S. carriers [abandoned by 2016](#). In addition, T-Mobile has had all-inclusive pricing (no hidden fees or taxes), unlimited video streaming and the ability to use your smartphone as a mobile data hotspot without paying extra. All these benefits have been great for consumers.

Not only has T-Mobile been good to Maine consumers, but it also has been good to Maine workers. For more than 13 years, T-Mobile's Oakland call center has served as the economic heart of the town and region, providing good-paying jobs to its nearly 800 employees, making it one of the largest private employers in the Kennebec County. It is no surprise that T-Mobile's Oakland call center has been repeatedly rated as one of the best places to work in Maine.

The new T-Mobile promises [to create new jobs](#) from day one by opening 600 additional retail locations and up to five more call centers across the U.S., specifically in rural areas and small towns to better serve those communities.

The new T-Mobile will also make sure that rural Mainers can stay connected and have affordable broadband options. Maine currently trails behind the rest of the nation in

broadband availability and speed, coming in 49th nationally. While 65 percent of homes in America have access to high-speed internet, [only 10 percent of Maine homes](#) have high-speed broadband connections. The T-Mobile-Sprint merger can change that.

I am very encouraged that the combined company will [invest nearly \\$40 billion](#) in just its first three years to bring the U.S. into the 5G future with fiber-like data speeds. The new T-Mobile will increase wireless and broadband coverage to reach nearly 60 million rural residents, all with improved signal quality, reliability and capacity to enable data intensive services at even faster speeds.

While coverage is critical, ensuring Maine consumers have affordable broadband choices is also important. T-Mobile's Metro-PCS brand currently offers plans as low as \$30 per month on the T-Mobile network, and T-Mobile's plans aren't much more. In the future, with 5G, T-Mobile's network will experience broadband speeds 15 times faster than current broadband speeds. With speeds like that, consumers will have more choice and competition in the marketplace.

The new T-Mobile will bring us the first nationwide 5G network, modernize our economy, expand rural access, and provide affordable broadband options to Mainers. As Maine's public advocate, I support this merger so the new T-Mobile can bring us into the 5G future and benefit consumers in Maine and across the country.

*Barry Hobbins is Maine's public advocate. He served in the Maine Senate from 1988-1990 and 2004-2012, and in the Maine House of Representatives from 1972-1984 and 2012-2016. While in the Maine Senate, Hobbins was the chair of the Judiciary Committee from 2004-2008 and chair of the Energy, Utility, Technology Committee from 2008-2012. He was the House chair of the Energy, Utility, Technology Committee from 2012-2016.*

# THE ADVOCATE

## Letters: Closing the broadband gap in rural America

**Billy Tauzin | JUN 5, 2018 - 6:00 PM**

Americans have long been defined by our entrepreneurial spirit and the belief that anyone can improve their current economic circumstances. As a former chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I worked to ensure that everyone had a chance to realize the American dream, including rural Louisianans. In the 21st-century economy, access to that dream requires high-speed internet and 5G technology will be crucial to expanding opportunity in urban and rural America.

"Fifth generation," or 5G, wireless technology will enable a dynamic new economy. Just as 4G provided the speed and connectivity that unlocked the potential of mobile applications like Uber and Instagram, 5G will jump-start the next wave of American innovation with the coverage and capacity needed to power millions of connected devices.

5G networks will move traffic more efficiently, power autonomous cars, and run mobile applications leveraging Artificial Intelligence. But the benefits go much farther. Estimates suggest 5G will boost U.S. GDP by \$500 billion and create up to 3 million American jobs.

While the promise of 5G is monumental for urban areas, rural America will see the greatest benefit. By expanding broadband access, 5G will help connect rural small businesses with larger markets and allow doctors to remotely treat patients who live hours away. Case in point, Scottsville, Kentucky, has used broadband-enabled telemedicine to connect doctors from Tennessee with local patients.

Unfortunately, Scottsville is the exception. More than 19 million rural Americans lack broadband access, and those that don't often have little or no choice in provider. The reason is simple: it's costly to lay wired connections and companies are not incentivized to invest.

While it has always been less expensive to cover large areas with wireless service, until recently wireless has not been able to compete with the speed and capacity of wired

connections. However, 5G wireless technology is poised to bring strong and reliable broadband to many rural communities, and companies are already investing in this infrastructure. But for rural families looking to access high-speed internet, 5G can't come soon enough.

As an adviser to T-Mobile, I was encouraged to see them announce their intention to merge with Sprint and lead the march to nationwide 5G coverage. The combination will capitalize on the network access and expertise of each company, accelerating investment and development of the first nationwide 5G network and creating pressure on AT&T and Verizon to speed up their own plans to develop and deploy 5G networks.

For too long, American communities have been divided by those who do and do not have access to broadband — the digital haves and have-nots. The merger of T-Mobile and Sprint can help change that by bringing 5G to rural America sooner.

**Billy Tauzin**

former U.S. representative

Lafayette



## T-Mobile: Creating A Future of Connectivity and Innovation

**By: Brad Nash, VP of Regional Field Sales – Southeast, T-Mobile**

First, I'd like to thank the Florida Chamber of Commerce for providing me the opportunity to connect with Chamber members here. The work being done every day by the Chamber to improve and enhance the business climate in Florida is important, as economic opportunity empowers communities and individuals alike.

My name is Brad Nash, VP of Regional Field Sales – Southeast. I started with T-Mobile more than 14 years ago in Florida working with Independent Dealer Owners. As I progressed in my career, I have had the privilege of supporting the Florida markets who have been instrumental to T-Mobile's growth as a company.

As you can see, T-Mobile has been my home for a while, but I've never been as excited about our future as a company than I am right now. The merger of T-Mobile with Sprint will take the company to a new level, positioning us in a way that allows us to do far greater things for wireless—like deploying a fast, nationwide 5G network quickly—all without losing our customer-centric focus.

Florida's business sector is vast, with industries ranging from agricultural and manufacturing, all the way to space technology. Its population is equally diverse, and T-Mobile is pleased to serve as both an employer and as a wireless provider to Floridians. We've been named a top employer in Tampa Bay by the *Tampa Bay Times*, and a Best Place to Work in Tampa Bay by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*. Our Tampa Bay Customer Experience Center continues to be ranked as a top place to work year after year—including being ranked number one for large companies in 2016.

We are committed to Florida as an employer, and as a wireless carrier.

The merger with Sprint will bring new opportunities for individuals and businesses here in Florida. We'll be adding jobs and making investments as we work to get the equipment and processes in place to launch our 5G network.

Making the investment in tech infrastructure is an investment in the future. Companies like Lyft that did not exist before 4G was deployed are now household names. Others that existed before, like Netflix and Amazon, changed dramatically as the mobile internet grew. I believe the same burst of entrepreneurship and innovation will follow the rollout of 5G. Companies locate to where the infrastructure exists to develop their products and markets. Simply put, innovation will flourish where 5G exists.

The benefits of this merger will have far-reaching impacts. States will experience growth as the network infrastructure work progresses. As 5G is deployed, customers' wireless experiences will change dramatically, as downloads that used to take minutes take only seconds—and, higher capacity means the ability to add up to ten times more devices.

Jobs and economic growth, fast, reliable wireless connections, and the unleashing of entrepreneurial potential. We're looking forward to what the future will bring to Florida.



## OPINION

# Breaking Down Barriers Through 5G Technology

BY BRODERICK JOHNSON

MARCH 7, 2019

I grew up in Baltimore, where my sisters and I attended parochial school and some of the region's best public high schools. We were educated by great teachers who had abundant and cutting-edge resources.

Today, students and schools in Baltimore and across the country face many unique challenges — among them safety, inequity, and inadequate resources — particularly when it comes to technology and innovation.

As technology has opened up exciting new pathways for learning, a “homework gap” has emerged in our schools that demands our attention. [Research shows](#) that African-American and Hispanic students are the least likely to have access to technology, the most likely to experience difficulty completing their homework and the most likely to indicate that their grades suffered because of lack of access to technology and connectivity.

With 5G, the next generation of networking technology, on the horizon, we are at a decisive moment in which this pernicious digital divide widens dramatically. But with 5G our nation will have the opportunity to close that divide decisively. For the underserved communities in Baltimore and beyond, the stakes could not be higher.

Throughout my career in the public and private sectors, I have committed myself to doing all I can to help break down educational and economic barriers, especially those that hamper the success of students of color. Today, too many urban communities in the United States remain on the wrong side of the digital divide. With truly inclusive 5G networks, that can change.

5G must be affordable to serve all Americans. By joining to form the New T-Mobile, T-Mobile and Sprint will be able to offer customers better service and more data at the same or lower prices. In fact, they have [formally committed](#) to



do precisely that for three years following the merger, even if competitors raise their own prices. The companies have also [pledged](#) to invest nearly \$40 billion to develop the new network and related services; combined with inevitable responses from the competition, this could expand wireless capacity by 120 percent and drive the price per gigabyte down as much as 55 percent.

This is a potential game changer for students and educators in underserved communities — both inside and outside of the classroom. Affordable broadband access matters to students now more than ever. As Brookings Institution fellow Dr. Nicol Turner Lee notes in a [recent paper](#), 5G-enabled technologies “can potentially contribute to more vibrant and robust school learning environments” and “make a marked difference in educational outcomes” for students of color on the wrong side of the digital divide.

I am confident that the New T-Mobile will deploy 5G inclusively — not just because they will have a financial incentive to add customers to their new network, with its vastly increased capacity, but also because inclusivity is core to what has made them successful. In fact, all of the New T-Mobile’s customers will benefit from the network improvements, including participants in Sprint’s Lifeline services and those on prepaid plans through the Virgin Mobile, Boost Mobile, and Metro by T-Mobile brands.

T-Mobile and Sprint are valuable community partners [in Baltimore](#) and in cities across the country. The combined company’s ability to support our families and classrooms will only increase after the merger.

We still have a long way to go to ensure equitable access to broadband, but there are reasons for optimism. A stronger New T-Mobile will lead to a more inclusive 5G future, marked by greater educational prospects for disadvantaged youth across the country.

*Broderick Johnson served as assistant to the president and cabinet secretary under President Barack Obama, and is currently an adviser to Sprint and senior of counsel with the law firm Covington and Burling.*

## Letter to the Editor: T-Mobile/Sprint merger can mean better Internet and phone connections for rural towns

Dear Editor,

Rural California still lags behind its urban and suburban neighbors in cell phone coverage and Internet speeds. Growing up in Exeter, it was difficult to even have reliable Internet service at all. This unfortunate reality has inhibited business growth, slowed down our favorite Netflix shows, and stymied a lot of relationships on [FarmersOnly.com](http://FarmersOnly.com) before they even started.

Rural areas across the country struggle with this issue, and it's holding us back. To take just one example: how many people in rural areas could do the jobs employers are struggling to fill, if they just had reliable broadband access?

This could soon change with the merger between T-Mobile and Sprint, and one of the biggest benefits of the combined company would be the ability to quickly deploy a 5G network.

Launching a network usually takes time, but this merger will be able to jump-start the process. The plan is to use Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) antennas to deploy the network. This gets rid of the need to install wired lines, which will make it quicker and less expensive to build, which alone will improve access for rural customers.

Another benefit of the merger that will allow for a speedier rollout, is the fact that each company has different spectrum holdings. These are the airwaves that carry cell signals, and by combining these different but complementary airwave bands, the new T-Mobile will be able to deploy a 5G network that is broad and deep.

This merger has the potential to positively affect rural communities in California and across the country, such as Exeter and other smaller towns in Tulare County. Bringing reliable, high-speed internet access to rural areas is long overdue. Sincerely,

**Chris Telfer**

Exeter

# LGBT



# TECH

## 5G Will Help Serve Those Who Need Telehealth The Most

September 17, 2018 | Christopher Wood, Executive Director, LGBT Tech

June was Pride Month, a time to highlight and celebrate LGBTQ identity, reflect on the work done to reinforce equality and opportunity for the LGBTQ community, and contemplate the tremendous amount of work still to be done. But while June has come and gone, we must continue this advocacy, especially as it relates to closing the digital divide and making technology more accessible for all. This is where the development and deployment of nationwide 5G wireless networks plays a pivotal role.

It's 2018, and yet 24 million Americans do not have fixed high-speed internet access in their homes. It is time that changes. In April, T-Mobile announced plans to merge with Sprint and create the first nationwide 5G network. And while the tech community is buzzing with the potential that new platforms, intersections, and ventures 5G could bring, it is important we not lose sight of the simple, yet life-changing, impact it could have. Something as simple as easing the burden of a doctor's visit, for example.

LGBT Tech has been a longtime champion of expanding access to health services through technology. As a minority group, the LGBTQ community can face uphill battles when looking for a doctor—18 percent of LGBTQ Americans avoid going to the doctor because they fear discrimination. Naturally, many turn to their phones for the answer, with 81 percent of LGBTQ youth searching for medical related information online compared to only 46 percent of non-LGBTQ youth. Imagine the life-changing benefits that could be experienced if those in need could connect with a medical professional through their phone.

It is encouraging that more than 70 percent of healthcare providers offer telehealth services, but for more than 50 million rural Americans who lack access to broadband services, including many in the LGBTQ community, telehealth is simply out of reach. Nationwide 5G presents a potential solution: a stronger, more reliable network that will give more Americans access to telehealth services. This means more choice in who to see for treatment, access to a wider variety of specialists, and a greater market for care.

With 5G-enabled telehealth, LGBTQ Americans needn't fear that the doctor they see does not understand their circumstance, or that the same doctor also sees their parents. It also means they can see doctors who have more experience with, or who specialize in, taking care of LGBTQ patients. Everyone should be able to choose their doctor, and this is especially consequential for LGBTQ Americans in rural communities. Expanded choice doesn't end there—the New T-Mobile's 5G network will force AT&T and Verizon to respond, which means even more investment in rural 5G infrastructure, more access to telehealth, and lower prices for customers.

LGBTQ advocacy cannot be confined to one month each year. The stakes are high. That's why LGBT Tech urges policymakers to prioritize the development of nationwide 5G, which would provide increased access to telehealth for those who need it most.

*Chris Wood (@chrisbwood) is co-founder of the LGBT Technology Partnership (@LGBTTech), a non-profit organization focused on advocacy for LGBTQ individuals and communities as it relates to technology and the policies that govern it.*

# Need for better cell service

**November 17, 2018**

To the Editor:

While North Central Florida boasts great beauty and resources, our rural community sometimes lacks for services. Wireless phone and broadband services are inconsistent at best, and in some places they are completely unavailable. Dropped calls and slow connections are almost as much a way of life around here as the farmland and natural springs.

But I'm excited that will change soon. The merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will create a third competitor with the resources to invest in rural broadband.

Through nearly \$40 billion of additional investment, New T-Mobile plans to roll out a 5G network that will extend further into rural America and provide faster speeds to rural Americans who already have coverage. These improvements will give individuals and businesses in North Central Florida – including

agribusinesses that depend on internet access for routine operations like purchasing and ordering – the means to stay engaged in the global economy.

The merger will bring other benefits, too. One underrated aspect of rural wireless broadband is emergency services. Remote areas are at a distinct disadvantage because of the lack of service, and a dropped call in an emergency situation means precious minutes are lost. New T-Mobile's 5G network will be more resilient and promise greater levels of reliable connectivity during disasters.

I am supporting the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint because rural areas like ours need high-speed connections as much as urban and suburban communities.

This merger represents our best opportunity to see broadband-level speeds brought to our region, along with the many benefits that will come with it, particularly for our businesses, schoolchildren, and for emergency services.

David Biddle

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council



## **Viewpoint: T-Mobile merger can help connect the unconnected**

By Geoff Why – Counsel at Verrill Dana; advisor to T-Mobile  
Aug 16, 2018

In my hyper-connected home, my teenage sons take for granted their ability to access the internet to help them with their homework or advance in their studies. My 13-year old has algebra lessons with his Minnesota-based tutor, who video chats with him every Tuesday night. My 18-year old watches Kahn Academy physics videos to help him answer the unanswerable questions of the universe. Like many, they assume immediate access to the internet is the norm. But many students lack reliable access, like those in rural Western Massachusetts who park outside of libraries with laptops in tow to connect to sporadic Wi-Fi, and the Boston public school youth who must study in noisy coffee shops to access the information superhighway.

The fact is, poor broadband connectivity has created a significant homework gap for many students in Massachusetts. FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel has noted that "as many as seven in 10 teachers today assign homework online, but the FCC estimates one in three households do not subscribe to broadband service." But help is on the way.

The T-Mobile-Sprint merger can help bridge this digital divide. Wireless networks run on various radio frequencies — also called spectrum — that different companies own. Currently, T-Mobile and Sprint own complementary spectrum bands, which, combined with T-Mobile's competitive pricing, could connect the disconnected. Here's how.

With the combination of T-Mobile's low band (600 MHz) and Sprint's middle band (2.5 GHz) spectrum, the New T-Mobile will accelerate deployment of a 5G network with fiber-like speeds as well as extending outdoor wireless coverage to almost 96 percent of Americans in rural communities. Others are working toward 5G as well, but together, T-Mobile and Sprint have the spectrum to create the first nationwide 5G network. In the coming years, wireless carriers, including the New T-Mobile, will deliver speeds 15 times faster than average broadband speeds of today, making 5G a real substitute for wired broadband.

Affordability is another key ingredient to access. Customers of T-Mobile brands like MetroPCS — a pre-paid wireless brand that offers unlimited plans for as low as \$30 per month to better serve unbanked communities — will benefit from 5G network deployment as well. Like other New T-Mobile users, pre-paid customers will use the same "supercharged" 5G network, leading to cost savings and improvements in network coverage, quality, and speed.

Moreover, a large proportion of cost-conscious customers will be able to use their phones as mobile hotspots to connect to the internet as a substitute for in-home broadband. Such "cord-cutting" will allow them save money by avoiding the prices that traditional internet providers charge.

The New T-Mobile will also benefit rural Americans. With 600 new stores serving rural areas and small towns, many Americans will benefit from competitive pricing for the first time. The company will also provide in-home fixed broadband with speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps for over 54 million rural residents, giving them options that many urban and suburban residents take for granted.

Bottom line: the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will result in better connectivity for households and students in Massachusetts and beyond. Because of this new connectivity, more students will be able to access online learning, read digital encyclopedias, connect to e-classrooms, and collaborate on research projects with students around the country.

*Geoffrey Why serves as counsel at Verrill Dana and as an advisor to T-Mobile. He served as commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable from 2009 to 2014.*



## OPINION

### The T-Mobile-Sprint Merger Is a Win for Consumers

BY HENRY WAXMAN

JUNE 27, 2018

For anyone who likes to see consumers win in the American marketplace, it's been exciting to watch T-Mobile's rise over the last five years. CEO John Legere and his team have transformed T-Mobile, once an afterthought in the wireless market, into a powerful force for change in an industry in need of disruption.

T-Mobile achieved this by doing something novel: putting customers first. T-Mobile was the first carrier to go all in on unlimited-data plans, and they did away with two-year wireless contracts, among other pro-consumer innovations. Although T-Mobile is much smaller than the two giants in this area, its aggressive consumer-first approach put pressure on AT&T and Verizon to offer similar packages, bringing down prices and helping more Americans gain access to reliable phone service and mobile internet. The New T-Mobile will be no different.

This week, Legere will be on Capitol Hill to meet with Senate Judiciary policymakers to discuss why consumers should welcome the recent news that T-Mobile and Sprint have agreed to merge. Legere will make the case that their combined resources and relentless, consumer-centric leadership will allow the New T-Mobile to drive pro-consumer innovation on an even larger scale.

I have been a life-long champion of protecting consumers. When I served as a U.S. representative and chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, I pursued policies — like mandatory nutrition labels, cigarette warnings, and an ability for generic drugs to compete—that sought to create a better, safer environment for American consumers. These values have led me to oppose concentrations of power in the past, especially if such actions would lead to less competition, higher prices, or lower quality products. And it was this point of view that led me to argue for spectrum to be set aside in a recent auction so that competitors to AT&T and Verizon could purchase bandwidth even though they were smaller and less wealthy.

While critics cry out that the merger will reduce the number of carriers from four to three, the data shows the combination will allow the New T-Mobile to better compete for customers and deliver significant coverage improvements — changes that will benefit consumers across the country.

For starters, together Sprint and T-Mobile can compete more effectively than they could on their own. With a larger T-Mobile, Legere can even more aggressively put downward pressure on prices and force the competition to improve quality of service, which could result in as much as a 55 percent drop in per GB price and a 120 percent increase in wireless data supply by 2024 compared to the world without the combination.

Next, the merger will expand T-Mobile's reach. Many people in communities across America must choose between AT&T and Verizon — if they have any real choice at all. In fact, the Federal Communications Commission reports that nearly 10 million rural Americans lack access to at least three LTE providers. The New T-Mobile will be better positioned to compete in these markets, particularly in rural America. The combined company expects to be able



to deliver high-speed, in-home broadband service to approximately 52 million rural residents, more than 84 percent of all rural residents.

Lastly, Sprint and T-Mobile have complementary spectrum portfolios that, together, will enable faster deployment of a nationwide 5G network. In fact, following the merger, the New T-Mobile will be positioned to invest nearly \$40 billion to deliver the world's first true nationwide 5G network and bring the company into the 5G future. By 2024, the new company will have around 2X the capacity and approximately 4-6X times the speed than either company could offer on their own.

We've long heard about the potential 5G has to move America forward on a variety of vital issues: the opportunity to enable connected devices in the coming "internet of things"; allowing autonomous vehicles and smart cities to monitor and regulate the flow of traffic, reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and even facilitating advancements in healthcare through telemedicine and wearable devices. These are innovations that could come sooner rather than later from this merger by increasing competition among the carriers to make 5G a reality.

With disruption in its DNA and a history of prioritizing customers, there is no other company I'd rather see setting the standards and the pace for innovation on this critical priority.

*Henry A. Waxman, who served as chairman and ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee while in his role as U.S. representative for California's 33rd District from 1975 to 2015, currently serves as the chairman of Waxman Strategies and as an adviser to T-Mobile.*



# My turn: We'd be better off with T-Mobile-Sprint merger

Henry A. Waxman | Nov. 12, 2018

Reliable, fast, and accessible consumer wireless connectivity has been the catalyst for much of California's leadership on innovation.

It's not just Apple, Google, Uber, Lyft and Airbnb. A new generation of exciting innovators will redefine how we tackle critical issues in the years ahead. The ability to connect and share data instantly will be the fuel of our state's vibrant economic engine.

Now 5G, the next generation of wireless technology and networking, is arriving. All indications show it will enable an even greater—and more inclusive—wave of innovation.

What will 5G make possible? Cities that are smarter, greener, and healthier through a fully-realized Internet of Things, where connected cars, smart sensors, and edge computing will make it possible to control how our world works like never before.

Connected devices will facilitate more transparent supply chains, more efficient logistics, and cleaner and more accountable industries. 5G will also lead to healthier people, thanks to advances in healthcare delivery through telemedicine and mHealth wearables that continue to emerge.

Making this future a reality requires bold measures to build and power a world-class 5G infrastructure. This infrastructure can't be built overnight.

But the California Public Utilities Commission will soon review a merger between Sprint and T-Mobile that can bring that infrastructure to California more quickly, in a way that benefits consumers throughout our state and nation.

As a member of Congress, I always studied proposed mergers with a critical eye. In my 40 years as a U.S. Representative, including my time as chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee, I worked to protect California consumers. This led me to oppose concentrations of power, especially if such actions would lead to less competition, higher prices, or lower-quality products.

But after working with and for T-Mobile and after studying the merits of this transaction, I can say with confidence that the Sprint-T-Mobile merger will benefit Californians.

In fact, I couldn't imagine a better company to lead us into the 5G era. T-Mobile already has disrupted the wireless market by putting consumers first. The company ditched two-year service contracts, went all-in on unlimited data, and [invested](#) in its industry-leading customer service.

Though T-Mobile is much smaller than AT&T and Verizon, its consumer-centric practices have driven the competition to follow suit, helping more Californians gain access to reliable phone service and mobile internet.

This is the kind of leadership consumers should demand as the road to our 5G future is paved.

Importantly, the New T-Mobile has pledged to invest nearly \$40 billion to deploy 5G from coast to coast. And only by combining T-Mobile's low-band and Sprint's mid-band wireless spectrum can we realize a network that is far-reaching and high-powered.

Critics argue the merger will take the industry from four players to three. In reality, the merger will create a stronger competitor to the giants, AT&T and Verizon. The combined company will be able to compete more effectively than either could on its own.

The New T-Mobile will also have greater incentives to win over customers with competitive pricing, innovative services, and better coverage in urban and rural areas. The competition will drive down prices and increase service.

Public Utilities Commission members have many factors to consider whenever they evaluate a merger. But in my view, it comes down to a single question: Will California consumers benefit from this? For the T-Mobile-Sprint merger, the answer is yes. That's why the Public Utilities Commission should swiftly approve this merger.

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*Henry A. Waxman, who represented Los Angeles in Congress from 1975-2015, is chairman of Waxman Strategies and an advisor to T-Mobile.*



## **T-Mobile's Compelling Case For Driving Innovation And Competition**

By: Henry Waxman And Billy Tauzin, February 11, 2019

Among the most critical responsibilities given to the United States Congress is oversight of government and industry, aimed at protecting and advocating on behalf of the American public. As former chairs of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, we took this responsibility seriously, making genuine efforts to seek accountability where it was merited and bring a critical eye to both the intended and unintended consequences of policy decisions. Despite serving on opposite sides of the aisle, we shared the belief that this approach contributed to better public policy and more effective regulation.

This week, the leadership of T-Mobile and Sprint will have an opportunity to testify before the House Energy and Commerce and Judiciary committees to articulate the public benefits of the New T-Mobile. Telecommunications and technology innovators know all too well that they must be responsive to the changing needs and priorities of their customers and the communities they serve if they want to thrive in the competitive American marketplace. We believe they bring a compelling case that together, they can better serve the public and create a more robust telecommunications sector overall.

The New T-Mobile has the potential to boost competition, create jobs, accelerate innovation, and put downward pressure on the price of broadband.

T-Mobile has succeeded by putting customers first. As customers grew frustrated with the limitations of provider contracts, T-Mobile was the first company to do away with mandatory two-year contracts. The company also recognized that wireless service should travel seamlessly with customers across borders, which led them to include international data service in its most popular plans — at no extra cost. As others followed suit, these steps and many others changed industry standards and customer expectations for the better.

This disruptive approach reflected a customer-driven strategy focused on delivering results to consumers, rooted in a belief that responsiveness and innovation always have the greatest potential to take companies, their customers, and the user experience to new levels. And it's this approach that will continue to drive the decision making and success of the New T-Mobile.

Leveraging the integration of Sprint's networks, the New T-Mobile has committed to investing nearly \$40 billion in infrastructure and services to create the first nationwide 5G network, using both companies' complementary assets to rapidly deploy a 5G network. Truly, both companies' networks will be stronger together, and by 2024, they will be able to deliver nearly three times the capacity and four-to-six times the speeds than they could achieve independently.

Access to broadband is critically important to ensure no community is left behind as we move into the 5G future. 5G is coming — the question is who will have access and when. The New T-Mobile will enable the creation of a broad and deep nationwide 5G network more efficiently and more quickly than otherwise possible, opening it up to a greater number of communities. That is critical, because the 5G future must be inclusive. Whether it's allowing students in California to access advanced online tools through a fast and reliable internet connection or giving farmers in rural Louisiana the ability to leverage precision agriculture technologies to boost crop yields, creating an accessible 5G connection is essential to maintaining American leadership and competition.

But what good is a network if there's a chance the merger could discourage competition?

While critics argue this combination will decrease competition by lowering the number of wireless competitors from three to four, extensive research demonstrates the New T-Mobile will dramatically increase capacity in the marketplace, placing more pressure on its competitors. As a result, the per gigabyte price for consumers could drop as much as 55 percent, while wireless data supply could increase by as much as 120 percent. Moreover, in a letter submitted to the Federal Communications Commission, the New T-Mobile committed to making the same or better rate plans available for services as those offered today by T-Mobile or Sprint.

To deliver on these commitments, retain customers, and attract new customers, the New T-Mobile will also create new jobs. It's anticipated that the infrastructure buildout required on both the technical and service sides will require thousands of additional workers. And T-Mobile recently announced that, following the merger, they will be building five new customer experience centers across the country, creating 5,600 jobs by 2021 to help to ensure a smooth transition for customers. Ultimately, these new team members are only part of the New T-Mobile's plans to create more than 11,000 jobs at T-Mobile—jobs necessary to stay competitive and deliver on their commitments.

We know the responsibility lawmakers feel to protect the interests of their constituents and the public at large. And we believe that members of Congress, once they fully examine the merits of this proposed transaction, will support the New T-Mobile and the innovation, broadband access, and opportunity that will come with it.

*Billy Tauzin is a former U.S. representative from Louisiana's 3rd District and served as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee from 2001-2004. Henry A. Waxman served as chairman and ranking member of the House Energy Committee while in his role as a U.S. representative for California's 33rd District. Both authors currently serve as advisers to T-Mobile.*

<https://morningconsult.com/opinions/t-mobiles-compelling-case-for-driving-innovation-and-competition/>

## THIS MERGER CAN THE PROVIDE COMPETITIVE SPUR TO WIN THE 5G RACE

James K. Glassman | Former Undersecretary of State

05/03/2018 | OP-ED

The decision Sunday by the boards of T-Mobile and Sprint to merge the two companies is timely in the extreme. What the U.S. needs in order to develop 5G, or critical fifth-generation mobile Internet technology, is competition, and the merger, if it is approved by regulators, will provide competition that neither company could possibly offer on its own.

Competition has given Americans better products, better service, better prices – and a faster-growing economy. But the race to 5G has threatened to become bogged down in complacency. AT&T and Verizon are content with dominating and launching sporadic 5G without a formidable competitor capable of heavy investment in new technology for a broad and deep network. With the merger, all that will change.

The effects of competition have been clear in recent years as T-Mobile's Un-carrier strategy has forced AT&T and Verizon to adopt more consumer-friendly offerings, and both Sprint and T-Mobile have forced competitors to offer unlimited data plans. By joining together, the new T-Mobile can create even more disruption in the wireless market. Combined, T-Mobile and Sprint will have the scale and resources to reshape the communications landscape for U.S. businesses and consumers.

What will 5G do? While all the details still aren't final, 5G will likely give your mobile phone a connection 10 times faster than 4G – fast enough to download a 3D movie in 30 seconds (compared with six minutes with 4G). More important, 5G will provide the bandwidth for a larger and more efficient "Internet of Things," reducing the lag time or latency between devices and the servers with which they communicate, enabling, for example, driverless cars to be far safer.

Currently, the United States is neck-and-neck with our South Korean, Japanese, and Chinese counterparts to develop and implement 5G technology. The country that wins will reap significant economic benefits. AT&T and Verizon are investing in 5G technology but not to the degree they should be, in light of their positions atop one of our most important economic sectors.

That's where the merger comes in. The new T-Mobile will generate significantly more pressure on all companies in the wireless space – including new entrants from cable – to develop their 5G technology rapidly. T-Mobile and Sprint both bring unique spectrum holdings, R&D bases, and access to capital to carry our country across the finish line in the race to nationwide 5G.

A competitive spirit is America's great comparative advantage. But competition has been too limited in communications technology, a sector that affects us all. By introducing a powerful new player with a penchant for pro-consumer disruption onto the scene, the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will have a powerfully positive effect on the U.S. economy.

America has the strongest private sector in the world, but we can't afford to rest on our laurels. Regulators, policymakers, business leaders – as well as consumers – need to understand what's at stake with this merger. It's our best chance to get 5G implemented quickly and broadly, to the benefit of all of us.

*James K. Glassman, who introduced Internet technology to American diplomacy as Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy (2008-09), is a senior advisor to Sprint. He was formerly a fellow at the Center for Internet, Communications and Technology at the American Enterprise Institute.*



# The New T-Mobile Won't Thwart the 5G Revolution, It Will Start It

By John Kneuer | June 13, 2018

What's one app you couldn't live without? We all have our favorites, but chances are our treasured apps all have one thing in common—they wouldn't work without the 4G connectivity that is credited with the rise of internet-enabled mobile applications.

Now let's take the same question to another level: What is the technology that the economy can't live without? For the past 20 years, the comparative advantage of the U.S. economy has been our ability to deploy and take advantage of high-speed broadband networks. Broadband connectivity has spread new capabilities and productivity gains across virtually every industry; from transportation to healthcare to manufacturing, broadband made America more innovative and competitive, added trillions of dollars to our economy, and produced millions of jobs.

Just as broadband has been the productivity driver for the last 20 years, 5G will become the indispensable technology that drives the future competitiveness of our entire economy. This isn't hyperbole. Our trading partners, as well as our competitors like China, recognize the transformative power of this technology and are racing to establish 5G leadership. The stakes couldn't be higher.

5G will transform U.S. businesses far beyond telecom, from transportation to healthcare to manufacturing. With a reliable high-speed connection, more data can be exchanged in real time. 5G is engineered to transmit data at 10 gigabits per second—a speed unthinkable in the 4G world—bringing new services, as well as competition and efficiencies, to existing industries. 5G will allow cars to communicate with one another to reduce traffic and harmful carbon dioxide emissions, help doctors reach patients in remote rural locations through telemedicine, and allow manufacturers to monitor and adjust processes and outputs.

Even the agricultural industry stands to benefit from 5G. Smart farming technologies will help farmers better monitor and analyze their production. Technologies like crop sensors that monitor environmental conditions and devices that track the health and maturity of livestock will increase efficiency and ultimately increase farmers' bottom lines. By some estimates, 5G development and deployment could [bring](#) up to \$500 billion in economic growth and three million new jobs to the U.S.

If our global competitors have access to these networks and we don't, America will be at a competitive disadvantage. Not only will economic growth and productivity suffer, but also ultimately companies could be forced to consider relocating to countries with more advanced



networks. But the inverse is also true—if America leads in 5G, our country will be the most attractive place in the world to do business, bringing both jobs and innovation to the economy.

So, what's the best way to ensure American leadership in 5G? Simply put, we must promote policies and incentives that will maximize private sector investment. In this context, the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint creates massive efficiencies that will incentivize rapid 5G deployment by the merging companies while also forcing a competitive response.

Deployment of a nationwide 5G network will require significant and sustained investment, as well as a sufficient portfolio of low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum. Today, no single company has all these resources at hand to rapidly scale up America's 5G capacity across the country, but together T-Mobile and Sprint could. Regulators should consider this as they evaluate the proposed merger.

The value of the T-Mobile-Sprint merger, for American businesses and consumers, is based on unlocking vastly improved network performance through the combination of highly complementary spectrum assets, paving the way for faster 5G deployment.

The merging companies have also committed to invest nearly \$40 billion in the new business and its nationwide 5G network for all—a network that will have enormous capacity to offer faster, better, and cheaper service than what either company could offer alone. Faced with this challenge, competitors will have no choice but to ramp up their own investment. The result will be an explosion of capacity across the industry, which will incentivize competitors to reduce prices to win or keep customers.

Today, the best way to rapidly make 5G a reality is to allow the new T-Mobile to become a catalyst for technological change. The merger is expected to benefit America by enabling a faster nationwide 5G network, creating jobs, and igniting competition that will be good for consumers. If regulators ignore these benefits, we could inadvertently stifle the next must-have, can't-live-without product of the future.

*John Kneuer is the former Administrator for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration under President George W. Bush. Kneuer currently serves as a consultant to T-Mobile.*



## OPINION

### **This Isn't Your Older Brother's Wireless Merger**

BY JOHN E. SUNUNU

MAY 4, 2018

Standing in line for the first iPhone ten years ago, it would have been impossible to predict the current state of play in the world of communications. More accurately, you could have tried, but you would have been very wrong. Verizon now owns Yahoo! and AOL. AT&T has acquired DirecTV and is now the country's largest television provider. Comcast and Charter are launching their own mobile phone plans, while Google operates a high-speed fiber optic network in major cities across America.

To keep pace with customer demand for mobile connectivity and novel content, companies are joining across sector lines to form unlikely partnerships. Old boundaries are dissolving, as industries like cable, telecom and media converge. As policymakers evaluate the T-Mobile/Sprint merger announced this week, they'll need to rethink the old, segmented definitions of industries to promote public interest in a new competitive world.

The combination will give T-Mobile the resources to deploy new technology – think 5G – faster and more broadly than ever before. These investments will take consumers far beyond the benefits of wireless speed and reliability – to high-speed home broadband, new streaming services and internet of things connectivity. This is particularly true in rural communities, where many Americans continue to be limited in their choice of wireless provider, broadband operator, or both.

T-Mobile and Sprint have highly complementary spectrum portfolios that will position the combined company to deliver America's first nationwide 5G network, and press other providers to rapidly invest more in their own 5G networks. 5G will vastly improve high-speed internet access and quality in the United States, particularly in underserved communities where Wi-Fi has struggled to bridge the digital divide. Additionally, faster mobile speeds will accelerate the adoption of internet of things technologies, creating an ecosystem of connected devices to satisfy consumer demand for instant and constant connection.

With greater scale, T-Mobile will also have lower costs, economic efficiencies and capacity to reach more customers. And with a history of leading the industry in rolling out new ideas, the new T-Mobile will continue to accelerate change in a landscape that becomes more crowded every day. Comcast and Charter are becoming players, leveraging their distribution networks and massive subscriber bases. Google's development of Google Fi and Facebook's work on drone-based mobile broadband further underscore just how crowded this space is becoming.

Cable and mobile companies are also making investments in content to entice and retain consumers. Comcast's acquisition of NBCUniversal, Verizon's acquisition of Yahoo! and AT&T's acquisition of DirecTV all epitomize the evolution toward vertical integration that is likely to continue as consumers' preference for mobile services disrupts traditional services. In fact,

phone and tablet internet use surpassed desktop usage in 2016, as consumers now use mobile devices as their primary gateway to the internet.

Consumers have responded with enthusiasm to innovations in mobile internet delivery, and history shows that when companies innovate and respond freely to consumer preferences, everyone benefits. It is critical that policymakers understand the industry changes brought about by internet mobility, and how the resulting convergence can drive innovation.

Promoting the public interest in this new environment will require a reconsideration of old assumptions about competition and consumer benefits. Competitive sets like the “Big Four” in wireless and distinctions like “wired vs. wireless” are increasingly irrelevant to the future of the industry. By forcing once separate industries to compete across a broader playing field, convergence is intensifying competition in mobile access and content delivery, with the potential to accelerate innovation, IT infrastructure development, and U.S. economic growth.

Still not convinced the wireless world has changed much in 10 years? Consider this: In 2009, the market leader in mobile platforms was...Blackberry.

*John Sununu, who served as U.S. senator for New Hampshire from 2003 to 2009 and as representative for New Hampshire's 1st District from 1997 to 2003, served as a director at Time Warner Cable from 2009-2016 and is currently a consultant to T-Mobile.*

## **Opinion: T-Mobile-Sprint Deal Would Be A Boon For Washington's Rural Areas**

By: Kris Johnson | July 13, 2018

*Disclaimer: T-Mobile is a member of the Association of Washington Business.*

Washington is a world-class state for innovation. From Boeing, Costco and Starbucks to Microsoft and T-Mobile, we're fortunate to have more than our share of homegrown employers that started small and grew to become industry leaders thanks to a combination of hard work, a great idea and a commitment to investing in employees and communities.

One of our homegrown companies, T-Mobile, is poised to take another major step forward.

The recently announced merger with Sprint would not only help solidify the region as a wireless leader, but it would also be a benefit for Washington and the state's economy. With a plan to invest \$40 billion over the next few years in their business and network, a new T-Mobile will drive increased investment throughout the industry, benefiting consumers and employers alike.

Wireless communication has become an essential part of modern life. It's a basic infrastructure, as important as roads, bridges and water. A combined T-Mobile and Sprint company would have the capital and spectrum resources needed to make an important investment in our country's infrastructure by building a nationwide 5G network.

Around the world, the race is on to develop 5G technology, which will increase network speeds dramatically, enabling unprecedented advances in connected devices and Internet of Things (IoT) technology and spurring innovation. Some predict 5G technology will be 100 times faster than existing networks and may trigger a new wave of economic growth, boosting the nation's GDP and creating millions of new jobs throughout the country.

Here at home, the merger will be especially helpful in rural communities, where the economy has not grown at the same rate as the state's urban centers. As the state's oldest and largest statewide business association, the Association of Washington Business has taken a leading role in promoting rural job growth, including hosting two summits focused on building the rural economy.

We know from those summits and from other discussions that connectivity is one of the biggest issues facing rural communities. The combined T-Mobile/Sprint network would stretch farther and be faster in rural areas, the company reports, helping grow the state's agriculture economy and making it possible for new industries to thrive in rural communities.

And the company could play an important role in expanding broadband internet access to rural communities, as well. An estimated 200,000 to 400,000 Washingtonians lack broadband access. Mobile technology is one possible solution for delivering broadband over "the last mile" to consumers.

Washington's economy is built on innovation and new ideas. Innovation produces new products that make our lives better, make our businesses more efficient and — sometimes — create whole new industries that we never imagined.

As this merger moves forward, we look forward to seeing the new investment and job creation that will result from a larger T-Mobile. When it's complete, the new company will be better positioned to make the kinds of investment in infrastructure that will drive economic growth across the country, in small towns and big cities.

We look forward, as well, to the investment in employees that will result, leading to stronger communities in the Puget Sound region and throughout the state.

And we celebrate a homegrown company that's not done growing.

*By Kris Johnson — President of the Association of Washington Business*

# The Fresno Bee

## To bridge California's digital divide, let T-Mobile and Sprint merge

BY MARIA ECHAVESTE  
JANUARY 14, 2019

California's impact as a center of technological innovation has affected millions across the globe, usually for the better. Yet, many in our own state have not been included in the benefits of this progress. There are, in effect, two Californias. While many in affluent urban and coastal parts of our state are the first to obtain cutting-edge technologies, too many in rural and historically underserved areas of our state lack access to high-speed internet and the critical resources it enables.



There is now an opportunity to narrow this gap, enabling all Californians to access the technology that is changing our economy and way of life. Access to high-speed internet means access to the world, including vital health care, economic, and educational services. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is currently reviewing the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, a transaction that will promote more equitable access to the next generation of wireless networking technology, known as 5G.

I recently participated on a technical panel sponsored by the CPUC to discuss why underserved communities must be prioritized as 5G is developed and deployed. It is abundantly clear that a digital divide exists in our very own state. This must change — it is critical that wireless providers commit to offering 5G for all.

As Brookings scholar Nicol Turner Lee notes in a new [study](#), “While lower-income African-Americans and Hispanics have similar levels of smartphone ownership as whites in the United States, they are more likely to depend on mobile services for online access, which is why 5G networks must be widely available, affordable, and able to support emerging technologies that address public interest concerns.”

The T-Mobile-Sprint merger is key to ensuring 5G is available soon to underserved customers. The combined company will increase consumer choice and accelerate the deployment of 5G service across California, especially in underserved areas. The new T-Mobile will spend nearly \$40 billion to build out 5G infrastructure and services across the country, creating jobs along the way. That new infrastructure will significantly increase network capacity, which will be filled with new customers.



*Luz Liliana Hernández uses a cell phone to record a news conference in this file photo*  
JUAN ESPARZA LOERA FRESNO BEE FILE

As a result, the company will have a strong incentive to offer competitive plans to entice new customers and promote quality 5G service in traditionally underserved markets. That means low prices, more reliable coverage, and, most importantly, more Californians with access to broadband. Indeed, all New T-Mobile customers — including

those on prepaid plans and recipients of Lifeline — will be served by the same 5G network.

5G will revolutionize the way families and businesses use the internet — and we're all better off if everyone has access to the network. The services enabled by high-speed internet access and 5G are the key to future economic development in traditionally underserved areas. In rural California, patients will have access to a broader scope of health-care options with innovative telemedicine services; students will be better equipped to do research projects; and critical communications services will be significantly more reliable. Our urban infrastructure will be smarter and more connected; consumers will have more options for their in-home broadband provider; and more Californians will have access to next-generation Internet-of-Things devices that make life easier.

Our state is long overdue to upend the telecommunications status quo. We are only as strong as our most vulnerable communities, and there are currently far too many Californians on the wrong side of the technological divide. We need to bridge that gap fast, as it is key to the economic growth of our state and the well-being of our residents. A stronger competitor in the wireless marketplace, with the ability to speed up 5G investment, will help make that happen.

For a state so well-known for its technology sector, too many of California's students, workers, and families are being left behind. Let's seize the 5G future as an opportunity to change that. Let's do everything we can to ensure our fellow Californians have access to the many benefits of fast, reliable broadband.

*Maria Echaveste is a senior fellow at the Center for Latin American Studies at UC Berkeley and at the Opportunity Institute, focused on economic and social mobility. She previously served as President Clinton's White House deputy chief of staff.*





# T-Mobile-Sprint is a different merger for a different era

By Martha Coakley and Rob McKenna, 1/15/19

When we served as attorneys general in Massachusetts and Washington state, respectively, we reviewed numerous high-profile transactions in the media and telecommunications sectors, carefully weighing their implications for consumers in an objective, non-partisan fashion.

Those responsible for protecting market competition must be vigilant about mergers that threaten to increase concentrations of market power. It was that commitment that led us both to oppose AT&T's attempted merger with T-Mobile in 2011.

But a lot has changed since 2011, including the state of competition in the converging wireless, cable and media industries.

In today's dynamic market for broadband internet — where the advent of 5G technology promises to transform and expand consumer options — scale is critical to competition. The proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint is a case in point.

The reason why we support this merger — and, in fact, why we joined the T-Mobile advisory team — is that it will create substantial [consumer benefits](#) by giving the combined company the spectrum, assets and scale to more effectively challenge larger players.

With its "Un-carrier" approach, T-Mobile has disrupted the wireless market with unlimited data plans, the end of multi-year service contracts and other innovations that have driven industry-wide change for the benefit of consumers.

In a marketplace that is evolving with new large-scale players, combining with Sprint will allow T-Mobile to compete against Verizon, AT&T, Comcast and others, even as they continue to expand into new lines of business.

In short, the merger will enable T-Mobile to continue the Un-carrier's pro-competitive, pro-consumer initiatives on an even larger scale.

As the companies have detailed in the [public interest statement](#) they filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), consumers will benefit by getting more data for less, and those living on the other side of the digital divide, especially in rural America, will see some of the greatest service improvements.

These improvements stem from T-Mobile's commitment to invest nearly \$40 billion in the development of a nationwide 5G network and services. By 2024, the company projects the New T-Mobile network will have three times more 5G capacity than what the two companies combined could achieve on their own.

Moreover, although some investment in 5G infrastructure is already underway, this large infusion of capital will speed 5G deployment, not least by upping the ante for Verizon and AT&T.



Simply put, more capacity means lower prices. All of the combined company's customers — including those on prepaid plans — will be served by the same network and will benefit from this huge increase in capacity.

To make its new network cost-effective, New T-Mobile will have to seek out new customers in untapped or underserved rural and urban markets. How will it acquire those customers? By dropping prices. And since prices are established at the national level, customers should see better performance for less money no matter where they live.

The merger will also allow New T-Mobile to enter new markets ripe for disruption, such as in-home broadband, where it will force cable companies to respond and potentially reduce costs for cable consumers across the board.

In addition, by 2024, 90 percent of Americans will have access to broadband speeds in excess of 100 megabits per second on New T-Mobile's network, making it easier for more of them to "cut the cord" once and for all.

The combination of T-Mobile and Sprint will help to bring communities across the U.S. into the digital future. With smart agriculture monitoring technology, for example, a farmer in rural Tennessee could see higher crop yields. Families with a sick child in the mountains of Pennsylvania will have faster access to telemedicine.

Students in underserved parts of Florida will be able to complete and submit their homework on a reliable internet connection. And the combined company's commitment to open 600 new stores and up to five new customer experience centers in the U.S. promises better service for small-town and rural America.

The synergies that typically make mergers attractive to investors often mean job cuts, but that's not the case here. The synergies described above require New T-Mobile to hire more employees to build its new network, provide customer care and support new or expanded services such as in-home broadband, video, enterprise and the "internet of things."

As a result, the merger will create thousands of additional American jobs in the first year alone and thousands more thereafter.

The potential benefits of the T-Mobile-Sprint merger will be widespread and particularly valuable for underserved Americans, who often rely on wireless data service for internet access.

The combined company will bring 5G to more Americans sooner while creating a more robust challenger to Verizon, AT&T and other competitors. It is truly a different merger for a new era.

*Martha Coakley served as the Democratic attorney general for Massachusetts from 2007 to 2015 and currently serves as a partner at Foley Hoag LLP, a Boston-based law firm. Rob McKenna served as the Republican attorney general for the state of Washington from 2005 to 2013 and as president of the National Association of Attorneys General from 2011 to 2012. Coakley and McKenna are advisors to T-Mobile.*

## **LETTER: Looking forward to new mobile carrier**

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Posted Oct 19, 2018 at 8:50 AM

Dear editor,

As a small-business owner in Milton, I depend on reliable wireless connectivity to keep in touch with my customers and sell my services.

When I first opened my business, I had two choices for my wireless provider — Alltel or MCI — because these two companies were the two main options in my community. The names and ownerships have changed since then, but even now that means we are still paying for sometimes spotty coverage, and the investment is very little in substantive improvements to our connectivity. This shoddy service means more difficulties communicating with my customers, selling my services, and increasing my business profit.

It's 2018, and it's time for something better.

That's why I welcomed the news earlier this year of a T-Mobile/Sprint merger. I wasn't only excited for another potential wireless option in my area. With another major player in the game, the existing market might just get a little more innovative. For my business, that could mean reduced prices, faster speeds, expanded coverage, and better performance.

To some, the prospect of New T-Mobile may just represent a cheaper phone bill, but for me and my business, it could make all the difference in making my business successful.

**MARTIN SIMMONS**

Apprise Video Productions & Photography  
Milton



## Operation Military Family Cares

Edmonds, WA 98020

877.516.8323

[www.OMFCares.org](http://www.OMFCares.org)

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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,

I am a U.S. Navy veteran and the Founder & CEO of Operation Military Family Cares, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health, morale, and finances of military veterans and their families.

I have attached an op-ed I wrote that was published by the Herald Net, in Everett, Washington. In the piece I detail my experience with the veteran and military support activities of T-Mobile, particularly what I encounter in Washington State.

They have proven to be a strong supporter of our military families and veterans, and for that they have my support.

I believe that their pending merger with Sprint has the potential to further benefit military families and veterans. Many veterans come from and choose to return to rural communities after service, where they struggle to find healthcare that meets their specific needs. The 5G network planned by T-Mobile and Sprint would make telehealth/telemedicine possible, which would dramatically improve the lives of these veterans.

Additionally, they plan on deploying additional LTE coverage around military bases, which would help our active duty members. This merger holds significant promise for our active and retired military members and their families, and it is my hope it will soon be cleared for approval.

Sincerely,

Michael Schindler  
Founder & CEO

## Op-Ed

By Michael Schindler, CEO, Operation Military Family Cares

T-Mobile has long been an important employer in Washington State, and the company's growth has been beneficial to our economy—both in state and for the nation as a whole.

As the CEO of Operation Military Family Cares, I felt it was important to provide some additional context as to what T-Mobile has done for our community as they move ahead with their efforts to merge with Sprint. Our team is devoted to programs and solutions that will improve the health, the morale, and the finances of our military/Veteran families and the industries that hire them. In doing so, we are exposed to a number of for-profit and non-profit efforts that deserve to be showcased – and this merger is worthy of such because of the positive impact it will have on our communities and our military and Veteran families.

Recently, T-Mobile has launched an initiative to help Veterans that is extensive in both its reach and its benefit. Among some of the provisions are a commitment to hire at least 10,000 Veterans and military spouses over the next five years, a plan to help active-duty personnel and Veterans save money on family phone plans called T-Mobile ONE Military, and a partnership with FourBlock to expand their career readiness program online and across 20 cities throughout the country. This means that more Veterans can access this incredible program that helps transition military members to civilian employment, which boasts a 94 percent success rate.

In addition, the merger will result in an average of 24,960 jobs each year between 2019 and 2023, including indirect job creation throughout the rest of the economy. This will provide even more opportunities for our Veterans and their families.

T-Mobile's commitment to Veterans and the military is evident in the work that they are doing, and these efforts deserve recognition. Many companies support our Veterans and military, but T-Mobile's involvement is deep.

For these reasons alone, I would be inclined to support T-Mobile's merger with Sprint. But, there's so much more that will benefit our state and country—like the potential for a fast 5G network, nationwide.

Internet speeds, particularly on mobile devices, aren't something people spend a whole lot of time thinking about—unless you're in an area that doesn't have much in the way of high-speed networks. Go from a community that regularly has 4G to a rural area and then try and use your favorite apps, and then you'll know what I'm talking about—there are many pockets across our state and country that don't have access to fast and reliable wireless service.

These are the communities that would benefit most. T-Mobile and Sprint each have different airwave holdings (called spectrum). By combining these two companies, the availability of spectrum that can be used for wireless networks is considerably expanded, allowing the combined company to reach areas that haven't seen much in the way of broadband access. Many of these rural areas are where many of our Veterans choose to call home. Through this merger and expansion of services, we'll be able to reach more rural Veterans and bring services to them, especially through telehealth.

There's even more good news for the military in this merger. T-Mobile will be investing more than \$500 million to build up LTE coverage around military bases—meaning better coverage and 5G speeds are planned for bases too.

Washington State has long been home to a vibrant tech sector, with T-Mobile as a major player in that industry. Nationally, we're beginning to slip behind other countries when it comes to 5G deployment. This merger will get us back on track to lead on 5G, just like we've led other technology advancements. I'm looking forward to see what the new T-Mobile can do—and I appreciate all that they are doing for Veterans. Bravo Zulu.

*Michael Schindler, a U.S. Navy veteran, is founder and CEO of Operation Military Family Cares, a nonprofit based in Edmonds that serves military and veteran families.*

*Correction: In earlier versions of this commentary, the estimate of jobs that could result from the merger, 24,960, should have clarified that the number includes indirect job creation in the rest of the economy and represents an annual average of jobs every year—not new jobs added annually.*



# Cable Conversion Is Increasing Competition In Wireless Space

By Michelle Connolly | November 08, 2018

Over the last year, more than 100 million consumers have gained access to a new option for a mobile service provider, as Comcast and Charter (and soon Altice) are now providing competitive mobile phone and broadband options. Any analysis of competition in the wireless industry must reflect these new entrants and new service offerings available to consumers.

In the near future, consumers will be gaining even more connectivity options as 5G will continue to move mobile broadband closer to becoming a possible full substitute for fixed broadband service. Cable operators will also be able to leverage their millions of miles of existing low-latency fiber and coaxial cable networks, along with 5G and WiFi hotspots to be even stronger competitors for mobile services.

Assuming that national policy allows for the rapid and efficient deployment of 5G, these advances will play a key role in helping to reduce the digital divide between rural and urban communities. 5G deployment will also enhance the price competition between mobile and fixed broadband services, further benefiting consumers.

So how have cable operators all of a sudden started offering mobile services? Comcast and Charter just activated what is called a Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) agreement with Verizon. This allows the cable operators to offer guaranteed wireless service with a national footprint (on Verizon's network), while also being able to rely on their existing fixed broadband network and millions of WiFi hotspots (through a Cable Consortium) to offload a majority of mobile data traffic and -- for many wireless communications -- bypass the cellular network altogether. These companies combine fixed wireless (via WiFi hotspots) with wireless services (via MVNO agreements).

In this sense, cable operators with MVNO agreements are quite different from previous MVNOs, such as TracFone or Straight Talk, that also resell services from traditional wireless companies, but rely entirely on the facilities and networks provided by the traditional wireless companies (Mobile Network Operators or MNOs). Instead, cable operators offering mobile services are more of a hybrid between MVNOs and traditional wireless companies, and more accurately represent a new class of wireless providers: Hybrid Mobile Network operators (HMNOs).

The CableCos' combination of a significant customer base, an MVNO agreement allowing access to a high-quality network, and their own fixed broadband networks has enabled rapid wireless growth. In just a year of operation, Comcast's mobile service has attracted 781,000 customers. In the second quarter of 2018, Comcast gained more subscribers than Verizon or



AT&T. Charter only started offering service this summer and Altice plans to begin in 2019. While these cable operators are new providers, with their hybrid mobile networks, they are immediately able to scale mobile wireless services to a national level and have the added ability to offer triple or even quadruple bundles of fixed broadband, video, fixed telephony, and now mobile wireless services/fixed broadband. The impact of the entrance of cable operators is already significant and will continue to grow as further deployment of WiFi hotspots and 5G networks occurs.

Previous regulatory analysis of competition in mobile services has intentionally ignored the role of Mobile Virtual Network operators, despite their competitive significance, because MVNOs traditionally did not own their own facilities. The recent entry of cable operators through MVNO agreements, but really acting as Hybrid Mobile Network operators, offers a fundamentally new breed of competition within mobile services. Hundreds of millions of consumers have just gained an additional high quality, cost effective mobile service option. This is good for consumers as it imposes significant price and quality discipline in the industry.

It also means that it would be a mistake to not consider this significant new competition in the wireless industry. These developments, as well as the introduction of 5G, are leading to greater and greater substitution and convergence between fixed and wireless networks and the fixed and wireless industries. Simply put, the technological walls that once existed between fixed and mobile are dissolving.

Changes in communications services have been astounding in the last decade. It is important that regulators and policymakers recognize these changes and move away from previous policy stances that are now relics of the past.

In a world in which wireless companies, cable operators, MVNOs, satellite companies and 5G providers are directly competing, it is anachronistic to view these markets as independent of one another. Any analysis of the wireless market must include the competitive effects and price discipline that hybrid HMNOs are bringing – and will increasingly bring – to the market.

*Michelle P. Connolly is Professor of the Practice in the Economics Department at Duke University. Prof. Connolly previously served as Chief Economist of the Federal Communications Commission and as an Economist for the International Research Function of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.*



## **A telecom merger that can help bridge the digital divide**

**By Mignon Clyburn | March 7, 2019**

In my nearly 19 years in public service, I have focused on closing information and technology gaps and empowering underserved communities.

America fulfills its highest calling, I believe, when it delivers the best networks to the greatest number of people, especially ones who are on the wrong side of the digital divide.

That mission remains more important than ever as we enter the 5G era.

It is not enough to build faster networks only for the wealthy or in the top 20 cities. Only when high-speed internet reaches every ZIP code can we say that we've truly won the 5G race.

For with 5G, America has an unprecedented opportunity to hit the reset button by bringing the benefits of education, transportation, healthcare, and civic engagement to communities that need it the most. If we fail, millions of Americans will remain left behind.

It is with these goals in mind that I've carefully examined the proposed merger of T-Mobile, for which I serve as an adviser, and Sprint.

I asked many of the same questions as people challenging this transaction, now pending before the California Public Utilities Commission: Will phone bills go up? Will there be layoffs? Will Americans most in need of high-speed mobile broadband get priced out? Will New T-Mobile deliver 5G for some but not for all?

I was happy to learn that T-Mobile and Sprint were asking the very same questions. In California and across the country, these companies have gone to great lengths to address societal issues including digital inequity, and are making concrete commitments to create a more inclusive digital ecosystem.

During testimony before California Public Utility Commission and committees of jurisdiction in the U.S. Congress, T-Mobile and Sprint executives have reiterated their commitment to building a 5G network that extends fiber-like speeds from the towns of South Carolina to the Central Valley of California.

Coverage, however, is only one piece of the puzzle.

Meaningful broadband access must be affordable. T-Mobile and Sprint are committed to offering the same or better rates as they do now for three years after the merger, regardless of what competitors charge.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission was to overhaul Lifeline, the program that helps economically disadvantaged Americans afford wireless service. Lifeline is particularly important in California, which contributes more to the program for its citizens than any other state.

T-Mobile and Sprint pledge to continue Lifeline service post-merger, allowing Lifeline customers to benefit from the New T-Mobile network.

But T-Mobile and Sprint are not primarily merging for job synergies. They plan to combine spectrum assets and spend nearly [\\$40 billion](#) on a next-generation infrastructure and services, if they merge.

That investment will mean more, not fewer, high-paying jobs. The New T-Mobile has [announced](#) the creation of a new customer experience center in the Central Valley. The company hasn't announced the exact location, but the center will create approximately 1,000 local jobs.

In a [recent agreement](#) with the California-based National Diversity Coalition, T-Mobile pledged to expand and improve the wireless capabilities of local community centers and churches across California to provide greater access to broadband for low-income communities. New T-Mobile will make wireless devices available at low or no-cost to school districts in critically underserved communities.

Improving access to 5G-enabled technologies will be essential to creating economic parity in America, as detailed in a recent Brookings Institution [study](#). That is why I am excited about the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint.

It represents an opportunity to bridge the digital divide on a scale that we have yet to see.

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*Mignon Clyburn served as Federal Communications Commission Commissioner from 2009 to 2018, and is an adviser to T-Mobile.*

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## TECH ADVANCE

Missourians should be thrilled by T-Mobile and Sprint's proposed merger. Innovation is what we live by in the Show-Me State. Whether on the plentiful farmlands of northwest Missouri or the major population hub of St. Louis, we believe in pursuing new opportunities for our families, our communities and our businesses. This time, it's Sprint and T-Mobile's new 5G technology that brings us together.

Together, Sprint and T-Mobile will deliver one of the most innovative concepts of the 21st century: 5G technology. With it, we can develop technologies that will help all Missourians: innovative farming equipment, telemedicine opportunities and start-up brands.

Face it. In many rural areas of Missouri, broadband options are limited. From farms to factories, we need updated technology that can move with us. New technology will allow for more competition, which means more options, updated technology and lower prices for families like mine.

5G technology can continue to push Missouri ahead. Let's get this done.

**Nathan White**

*Norborne, Mo.*



# OP-ED: 5G TECHNOLOGY VITAL FOR THE ECONOMY AND FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

**RICHARD MROZ** | NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will allow for rapid deployment of next generation of wireless technology, enabling major advances

For years, America has been at the forefront of technological innovation. From the earliest days of using dial-up connections to access the web to the formation of thousands of new applications and companies that exist solely because of the internet, our country has been a leader in tech. This remarkable growth has created a whole new sector of our economy.

In fact, the use of the internet and wireless services has become such an integral part of everyone's daily lives that we take it for granted. The internet has become a near-constant presence in our homes and work.

In my work around the utility industry, I have seen how important this infrastructure has become to support our livelihood and why it is critically important we remain on the cutting edge of tech developments in wireless communications.

The combination of T-Mobile and Sprint through the pending merger puts us in a much-improved position to rapidly deploy the next generation of wireless. The spectrum holdings of each company are complementary and together will allow for an advanced wireless network that can cover the nation, providing access that is both broad and deep.

## **Apparent economic advantages**

There are two important aspects of this merger. The first is the overall benefit to the economy that the merger will provide by encouraging the market to support 5G development. The second is how this merger supports critical communications services in times of crisis.

Looking at the broader economic impact first, it is easy to see how important a 5G network will be to our economy, especially compared to a 4G network. The increased speeds and latency upgrades to the 4G network spurred development of other business and technology advances in the logistics, transportation and entertainment industries such as with Amazon, Lyft, and Netflix.

5G will make the platform for economic and business advances and related customer services even better. And increased capacity means innovation from entirely new companies that may be small or startup businesses, many of which will likely start in the New York/New Jersey region with our diverse populations and dynamic business environment.

## **Easier communication during disasters**

The merger also means improvements in support for critical communications services during emergencies. This is a topic with which I am deeply familiar having served as the Chairman of the Critical Infrastructure Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and as president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU).

The aftermath of an emergency is chaotic, and the ability to communicate, organize, respond and recover from a disaster caused by weather events — or intentional acts — is critical to the life, health, and safety of citizens. We must have reliable and modern infrastructure to support emergency communications.

5G brings to emergency efforts both speed and capacity. Recognizing that every disaster is different in some ways, what remains constant is the need to coordinate response operations and leverage technology and be resilient in a crisis. The broad and deep nationwide 5G network planned by the merged company will provide even better support for first responders, public safety organizations and consumers.

The prospective benefits of this merger are significant. It will enhance an infrastructure to support economic opportunities and provide a critical backbone supporting emergency services, making it resilient from disruptions that might otherwise impact our daily way of life.

*Richard Mroz is the former president of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, served as the chairman of the NARUC Critical Infrastructure Committee, and was a member of the NARUC board of directors. He has a career of distinguished public service, having also served in senior leadership roles for former Governor Whitman. He is now an independent consultant working on behalf of T-Mobile.*

## **T-Mobile-Sprint Merger Would Lower Costs for Customers, Bring New Jobs**

[Robert McDowell](#) / June 27, 2018

Mergers and acquisitions in the converging communications, media, and internet industries dominated news earlier this month. Following the decision in the AT&T-Time Warner trial and Comcast's bid for 21st Century Fox, there was a tsunami of speculation about the next big deal.

But while the press is understandably preoccupied with newly announced deals, downstream regulatory disclosures often reveal far more about the effect these transactions will have on American consumers.

The Federal Communications Commission, where I served as a commissioner from 2006 to 2013, occasionally requires the filing of a Public Interest Statement. While little known outside of regulatory circles in Washington, D.C., this lengthy document is a treasure trove of information, with detailed economic analysis and insights from key executives. For those of us in the industry, the filing of a Public Interest Statement on a major transaction is always an event to study.

Last week, T-Mobile and Sprint [filed](#) their Public Interest Statement making the case for their merger. Coming in at more than 600 pages, the document leaves no doubt about the substantial public interest benefits this combination will produce for American consumers across the country—of all socioeconomic statuses in both small towns and big cities.

Here is what America needs to know.

The merger will create billions in cost savings allowing the parties to accelerate about \$40 billion in capital expenditures by 2021 to build a world-leading 5G network and services—supercharging the New T-Mobile's deployment of this next-generation technology and making it a more viable competitor in a rapidly changing industry. By 2024, the New T-Mobile nationwide 5G network will have approximately three times the combined 5G capacity and four to six times the standalone speeds of what T-Mobile and Sprint could do standing separately.

This surge of investment will produce for consumers as much as a 55 percent reduction in data consumption cost (on a per gigabyte basis) and as much as a 120 percent increase in data capacity. By accelerating 5G construction in the U.S., the merger will help ensure America's economy and consumers are among the earliest global beneficiaries of 5G's transformative attributes. This acceleration will help spur the U.S. to win the worldwide race to 5G.

Furthermore, this massive investment will create thousands of new jobs, from Day One and beyond. The New T-Mobile plans to create 3,000 more direct jobs than the two standalone companies in the first year, with increasing employment year after year. The new company will hire employees to build its nationwide 5G network, provide customer care, and support new or expanded services such as in-home broadband, video, “internet of things,” and enterprise services.

In fact, by 2024, the New T-Mobile will have hired over 11,000 new direct employees. And the merger and responses from Verizon and AT&T will add thousands more jobs in the broader economy resulting from accelerated 5G deployment—a clear win for the American economy and American workers.

Some of these jobs will benefit rural America, where the New T-Mobile is prioritizing expansion. But that’s not the only way rural Americans will benefit from this merger. Millions of rural Americans currently lack access to fixed high-speed broadband service, but the New T-Mobile and its 5G network will deliver high-speed, in-home broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbps to 52 million rural residents—approximately 84 percent of rural residents—bringing more choice and competition to these areas.

Finally, T-Mobile’s “Un-carrier” moves like bringing unlimited data to consumers, nixing two-year service contracts, and offering free international roaming have earned it the reputation of a maverick. The New T-Mobile will aggressively continue its maverick strategy to bring new customers to its new 5G network. The New T-Mobile will have an incentive to acquire and maintain additional customers to consume the combined entity’s expanded network capacity.

The New T-Mobile must continue its customer-centric business policies, including lower prices, to increase its customer base. Its expanded capacity and wider customer base, in turn, will allow the company to further lower prices while still satisfying growing consumer data demand.

While discussions of the next big deal(s) will take center stage, Americans should look to the future to decide for themselves how these mergers will affect consumers. For the T-Mobile-Sprint merger, I invite you to read the Public Interest Statement [in full](#) and see the clear benefits the New T-Mobile will bring to all Americans and help the U.S. maintain its global lead in mobile technology.

*Robert M. McDowell, a former member of the Federal Communications Commission, is a partner at Cooley LLP and an adviser to T-Mobile.*



## *To Boost 5G, Keep the Industry Free*

Regulating mobile broadband will hurt American innovation.

By Robert M. McDowell | Sept. 27, 2018 6:44 p.m. ET

Europe and Asia are poised to surge past the U.S. when it comes to mobile internet innovation. At a White House summit Friday on next-generation mobile broadband, or “5G,” industry luminaries and government leaders will gather to discuss how America can retain its dominance in this vital economic arena. The focus should be giving private industry the freedom to innovate, invest and experiment.

Congress, local authorities, antitrust officials and the Federal Communications Commission must resist the urge to micromanage the next-gen wireless market. In January the National Security Council proposed a nationalized 5G network. This is precisely the wrong approach. Overregulation would crush next-gen wireless in its cradle.

Europe and Asia are still smarting over the U.S. having beaten them to the 4G finish line. By 2016, 4G added almost \$100 billion annually to American economic output and created millions of wireless-related jobs. It also powered the rise of the “app economy” because tools like Uber, Airbnb, [Netflix](#) and Waze require superfast mobile speeds to work. Most apps weren’t even envisioned a decade ago; now nearly three-quarters of the companies in the global app economy are American, according to the advocacy group CTIA. Other countries know they will reap massive economic returns if they knock the U.S. off its perch as the 5G economy unfolds.

The advent of 5G will allow entrepreneurs to create new technologies and products that we don’t even know we need yet. Ten years ago most consumers didn’t have a smartphone; now most can’t live without them. All of this happened thanks to 4G. With 5G, mobile speeds could be 100 times as fast. This could enable driverless cars to avoid accidents, transform medicine through implanted medical devices, and produce smarter cities and energy grids through the emerging Internet of Things. Countries that build their 5G networks first will be in a better position to experiment with and deploy tomorrow’s technologies. Their first-to-market advantage could displace Silicon Valley and other U.S. tech cradles.

A 2015 National Science Foundation report on 5G network development concluded that “the United States is very much behind,” compared with Europe, South Korea, Japan and China. Since 2015, China has built about 350,000 cell sites, compared with fewer than 30,000 in the U.S., according to consulting firm Deloitte. That’s a huge competitive disparity because 5G requires far more cell sites grouped closer together than 4G.

America dominated 4G because the government largely got out of the way of risk-takers. U.S. regulators, unlike their European counterparts, didn’t try to mandate technical standards or require forced sharing of their wireless networks with competitors. Regulatory humility produced one of the greatest explosions of entrepreneurial brilliance in human history, the mobile internet.

Today the FCC is helping speed 5G deployment by modernizing regulations. Last December it removed utility-style regulations placed on wireless broadband by the Obama administration. On Sept. 26, it pre-empted localities from charging outrageous fees for 5G deployment. It is also gearing up to auction more spectrum in November to help connect the Internet of Things. Tax reform and the Trump administration's broader deregulatory agenda have also created a more business-friendly environment.

But more should be done. Antitrust officials should update their definitions of markets to give more clarity to 5G entrepreneurs. As T-Mobile and Sprint argue in their merger filings, 5G and free Wi-Fi will compete head-to-head with cable broadband for in-home use.

Regulators also need to recognize that as 5G emerges, old categories are becoming scrambled. Consumers don't necessarily know, or care, if their content comes from an online provider, a broadcaster, a cable channel or a "tech" company, so long as they can get it on their phone or tablet. Regulations must allow companies to invest, innovate, and merge in this new ecosystem.

China United and [China Telecom](#) may soon merge to create a massive 5G machine, and Japan promises to make the 2020 Tokyo Olympics a showcase for its 5G prowess. In this time of intense competition, American regulators can't afford to concoct industrial policy or nationalize wireless infrastructure. Market-oriented policies have been the secret of America's success in wireless. Regulators should stay out of the way.

*Mr. McDowell, a former FCC commissioner (2006-13), is a partner at Cooley LLP and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.*

## I'm a Former FCC Commissioner, and I Think the T-Mobile-Sprint Merger Is Great for America

By [ROBERT M. MCDOWELL](#)  
May 7, 2018

It's dawning on policymakers, business leaders, urban and rural Americans, and our global competitors just how Internet connectivity will define the economy of the future.

Some like to call it the Internet of Things (IoT) economy, one in which Internet access supports a new wave of global growth. Around the world, wireless and tech companies are scrambling to build the infrastructure for such an economy, while countries are competing to create the technological standards and innovative capacity needed to spark IoT economic growth.

One technology that will underpin this era is the fifth generation of global wireless networks: 5G.

Two American companies, Sprint and T-Mobile—both of which are already investing in 5G technology—just announced their intentions to merge, a move that will significantly accelerate 5G deployment and be a boon to American innovators. (I currently serve as an advisor to T-Mobile.) By bringing these two wireless carriers under one roof, each company's already present 5G expertise and network assets will be combined and accelerated, benefiting the American people and our country's global leadership.

U.S. companies are in a race against their Asian and European counterparts to be the global leaders in 5G technology. The countries that implement 5G first will set global standards and reap the economic benefits of winning the race.

During my time at the Federal Communications Commission, we helped roll out 4G technology, which was driven by strong American leadership and brought with it billions of dollars in economic benefits for Americans. The 4G economy gave us the speed and capacity needed to launch the app revolution, which invigorated some of our largest and most successful Internet companies. As our world embraces an IoT economy driven by billions of connected devices, 5G is poised to do the same.

5G technology will increase Internet connectivity, reduce delays, and jump-start rural and urban growth in the U.S. It will enable Internet-connected devices to join people, data, and new devices, and will multiply download speeds up to 10 times, allowing wireless carriers to offer high-speed services to those in underserved rural communities.

This will fuel economic growth and benefit the American worker. A Qualcomm-commissioned study estimates that in the U.S. alone, 5G will yield \$719 billion in

growth and 3.4 million new jobs by 2035. Americans from coast to coast, in small towns and big cities, will reap the benefits of 5G technology, especially if American companies are the ones leading the way in global implementation.

The T-Mobile-Sprint merger will benefit our country and all Americans. From a farmer in Nebraska using 5G technology to better track crop conditions, to a small business owner in New Hampshire looking to sell products in the global marketplace, to a smart city with autonomous vehicles, all of us will depend on 5G. We can't afford to lose the global race to develop this remarkable technology.

*Robert M. McDowell is a former FCC commissioner (2006–13), a partner at Cooley LLP, and an advisor to T-Mobile.*

## Commentary: The Case for 5G and the Sprint/T-Mobile Merger

By Robert Romano | February 18, 2019

At [the Feb. 13 hearing](#) of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, the proposed merger of T-Mobile U.S., Inc. and Sprint Corporation was considered by members of Congress, with T-Mobile CEO John Legere and Sprint Executive Chairman Marcelo Claure testifying.

By the far the biggest selling point that was offered is how a combined Sprint and T-Mobile will be able to deploy a nationwide 5G network. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) [stated in his opening remarks that](#) "5G deployment is important and valuable to consumers and the economy and whether the merger expedites 5G roll-out merits consideration."

By that measure, then, Sprint-T-Mobile is exactly what the U.S. market needs. To get to 5G, the U.S. needs to allocate a whole lot of spectrum. That is why the proposed merger is so important. It will enable T-Mobile and Sprint to share their respective 600 MHz and 2.5 GHz spectrum across the low and medium bands.

[As T-Mobile's Legere noted in his testimony](#), "T-Mobile possesses low-band (600 MHz) spectrum, which is particularly useful for providing coverage across broad geographic areas, but has limited capacity, and high-band (mmWave) spectrum, which is useful primarily for outdoor applications and in targeted densely populated areas. By contrast, Sprint lacks low and high-band spectrum, but possesses substantial mid-band (2.5 GHz) spectrum, which has more limited coverage capabilities than low-band spectrum, but provides deep network capacity. Combining T-Mobile's low-band and high-band wireless spectrum with Sprint's mid-band spectrum will allow for both extremely broad coverage and deep network capacity, providing the optimum scenario for a robust, nationwide 5G network."

[Sprint's Claure pointed out in his testimony](#) how separately each company on its own won't be able to effectively compete in 5G: "It is important to understand how our plans for 5G in the absence of a merger will necessarily be limited by our spectrum portfolio, lack of scale, and resource constraints. In particular, our limited low-band spectrum cannot provide a basis for launching a ubiquitous coverage layer for 5G, and building ubiquitous nationwide 5G coverage using only Sprint's 2.5 GHz spectrum would be impractical and economically infeasible. To be sure, Sprint's 2.5 GHz spectrum will deliver very high speeds and support substantial capacity where we are able to deploy it, but due to the propagation characteristics of 2.5 GHz spectrum, it would not provide a blanket of coverage outside of major metropolitan and suburban areas."

Again, it's all about the spectrum. While T-Mobile's low band spectrum will help bring the network nationwide and particularly to rural areas, Sprint's medium spectrum will give it the

network capacity it needs to function in big cities and densely populated suburbs. You cannot do nationwide 5G without these shared characteristics. So, if you want 5G, you need access to the entire spectrum.

Meaning, to get to 5G, if we didn't have Sprint-T-Mobile, we'd have to invent it.

The economic benefits appear obvious enough. [Accenture has estimated](#) that 5G will create 3 million new jobs in the U.S. and boost the economy by more than \$500 billion. It will mean many new investments made leveraging the network that simply cannot happen right now because they are not achievable without 5G.

In Sept. 2018 FCC Chairman Ajit Pai [stated the need for 5G](#): "U.S. leadership in 5G technology is a national imperative for economic growth and competitiveness." And here, the merger helps the U.S. compete globally with China, while fostering competition in 5G versus AT&T and Verizon.

Americans for Limited Government President [Rick Manning in a letter](#) to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology emphasized the importance of vigorous market competition to keep the U.S. ahead of China on 5G: "While China races ahead in 5G with its command and control economic approach, threatening U.S. intellectual property, the U.S. has continued to achieve unparalleled innovation over the past century through robust competition. T-Mobile and Sprint joining forces will create more competition in the 5G market versus AT&T-Time Warner and Verizon — helping the U.S. to stay ahead of its foreign adversaries."

In addition, 5G speeds will promote competition with direct-line broadband. So, if you want to cut the cord, with 5G speeds, you could set up wireless Internet in your house with your cellular plan. Again, that's a boon for rural areas and will help bring down prices, too. What's not to like?

Finally, bringing 5G to the U.S. with Sprint-T-Mobile and other carriers will technologically transform everything about the U.S. economy. Smart cities, driverless vehicles, factories with robots and so many other things not yet contrived, all possible because of the next generation of wireless technology. Combining Sprint and T-Mobile's spectrum is a huge piece of the 5G puzzle, helping to bring about a future of endless possibilities for the American people. This is one example of consolidation in the marketplace that regulators should embrace.

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[Robert Romano](#) is the Vice President of Public Policy at Americans for Limited Government. Photo "John Legare" by [T-Mobile](#) and "Marcelo Claure" is by [Sprint](#).

<https://tennesseestar.com/2019/02/18/commentary-the-case-for-5g-and-the-sprint-t-mobile-merger/>

# Orlando Sentinel

## Commentary: T-Mobile-Sprint merger will help Florida businesses grow



**By Ronald A. Brisé**  
**November 14, 2018**

The race to 5G is on. Ever since [T-Mobile](#) and [Sprint](#) announced in April their intentions to merge, 5G mobile broadband has become a major topic in the United States, and rightfully so. The merger is important to the universal deployment of next-generation mobile networks and to assuring the U.S. retains its global leadership position in wireless innovation. Policymakers from both parties across the country have responded positively to the merger and its promised benefits, supporting it in letters and in formal regulatory approvals.

Such swift progress toward finalizing the transaction is critical to ensuring that consumers across the country — many of whom rely on wireless services — can reap the merger's many expected benefits, sooner rather than later.

In my time serving Floridian constituents, I've evaluated many different, and incredibly impactful, business transactions to understand consumer benefits. In my review of the T-Mobile-Sprint merger, the consumer benefits are clear and further solidify why we need it to be approved quickly.

The New T-Mobile will invest nearly \$40 billion to build a 5G network that, on average, will be approximately four to six times faster than the 5G networks that the companies would build on their own by 2024. What's more, the merged company will have the

scale and spectrum to continue to disrupt the industry with innovative products and services.

This investment will also allow the new T-Mobile to drive down prices and force competitors to improve their quality of service according to a recent study by MIT economist William Lehr. This industry landscape, Lehr concluded, would be the "best way forward" for robust competition and to further benefit consumers. According to the companies' Public Interest Statement, the merger could result in as much as a 55 percent price drop per GB and a 120 percent increase in wireless data supply by 2024. Better service at a lower cost is something Floridians, and all Americans, should benefit from.

Underserved communities stand to benefit the most from this merger. For too long, too many Americans have been marginalized, being left behind as the digital divide grows. The 5G network designed by the new T-Mobile will aim to bridge that gap by maintaining its commitment to its ethnically and economically diverse customer base and the creation of innovative, affordable plan options, like 55+, T-Mobile ONE Military, and Metro by T-Mobile. Perhaps, the most important aspect of 5G in aiding to bridge the digital divide is its ability to provide cost-conscious customers a reliable alternative to in-home broadband service.

Indeed, the next-gen mobile network resulting from the merger can be harnessed to create additional business opportunities in the Sunshine State. Wireless technology is an essential tool for all businesses and through the power, speed and reliability of 5G networks, our businesses can flourish. I agree with the U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce when it said that 5G networks not only mean more robust economic development, but stronger and broader educational options, enhanced public safety, and greater access to health care for our communities.

Finally, the merger will not only result in more jobs than the two standalone companies could have created on their own, but these new employees will join a company that has an award-winning culture of diversity and inclusion. T-Mobile has been recognized as a "Best Employer for Diversity" by Forbes; "Corporation of the Year" by the U.S. Hispanic



Chamber of Commerce & the National Minority Supplier Development Council; and a “Top 100 Military Friendly Employer” by Military Friendly.

As regulators consider the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, they should recognize the potential for the merger to bridge the digital divide, provide new opportunities to minority-owned business and create jobs in a company known for its culture of diversity and inclusion.

Fortunately, several states have already recognized the benefits the merger will have for their residents. Other states should follow suit and any undue delay in completing the remaining reviews should be seen as the postponement of benefits for consumers that have the potential to greatly improve their lives by enhancing digital inclusion and transforming communities across the U.S.

*Ronald A. Brisé is formerly Florida’s Public Service commissioner.*

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-t-mobile-sprint-merger-good-for-consumers-20181114-story.html>

## Editorials

# Sen. Warren misses mark with antitrust screed

Originally published March 11, 2019 at 2:49 pm

**By The Seattle Times editorial board**

Sen. Elizabeth Warren is right to call for more aggressive enforcement of antitrust laws in our new digital era. Google and Facebook particularly deserve greater scrutiny from U.S. regulators.

Washington voters should follow closely, however, because the tech giants Warren called out — Microsoft, Amazon, Google and Facebook — are responsible for a large share of the state's recent job growth and increased tax revenue.

Warren, a consumer advocate and former law professor, is well qualified to start this conversation. But she may be squandering the opportunity. Her antitrust treatise, [posted last week](#), seems designed to stoke resentment of big companies as much as protect consumers. It sets an arbitrary threshold on revenues of big tech companies, above which they are prohibited from selling products that use their platform. This could raise prices and stifle innovation, because services help cover the cost of investing in cloud services.

Breaking these companies up is likely to cause massive price increases or losses in quality, said Herbert Hovenkamp, an antitrust expert at the University of Pennsylvania. This would be particularly painful for Warren's Democratic working-class constituents who earn less and are more sensitive to price increases, he noted.

While it may play well with her activist labor base, demonizing popular companies like Amazon won't always fly with voters. This was demonstrated last year in deep blue Seattle, where City Hall killed its "Amazon tax" on jobs only after labor polling found widespread public opposition to the measure.

The timing of Warren's attack on mergers is significant. She's part of a last-ditch, labor-affiliated effort to scuttle the merger of Sprint and T-Mobile US, a deal expected to [bring enormous benefits to Washington](#).

Disappointingly, U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Seattle, has joined with Warren and other left-leaning members of Congress in opposing the deal, even though it's expected to preserve jobs held by many of Jayapal's constituents, create thousands of new jobs and prevent the loss of the Seattle area's last major telecom company.

Jayapal was unavailable to comment. But she recently co-signed a letter, leaning on research by the Communications Workers of America, opposing a "deal designed to

destroy jobs and drive down wages, hurting American workers and consumers and threatening our economy.”

T-Mobile’s merger would combine the third- and fourth-place wireless companies to create a stronger competitor for the giants, Verizon and AT&T. T-Mobile also plans to use Sprint’s spectrum to push into home broadband, creating new competition for Comcast and other broadband providers.

Although T-Mobile isn’t unionized, the company has benefited working people by driving down wireless prices. It’s forcing larger carriers to offer more affordable wireless options to compete with its aggressive pricing. Some sort of merger is all but inevitable.

T-Mobile’s Bellevue headquarters is in the congressional district of another progressive, U.S. Rep. Adam Smith. He said the merger “holds great promise for our region’s workers and local economy.

“If approved by regulators, I expect this merger to promote greater competition within the wireless industry; benefiting the Puget Sound area through the preservation and growth of jobs as well as our country’s wireless customers through innovation and competition,” Smith said in a statement.

Also supporting the merger is U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene, a Medina Democrat whose district includes many T-Mobile employees. “Even combined, T-Mobile and Sprint will still be number three in terms of market,” she noted.

Politicians calling for antitrust enforcement and stronger regulation of the internet’s dominant gatekeepers are more than welcome. Especially if they avoid grandstanding and focus on truly protecting consumers and increasing competition.

***The Seattle Times editorial board*** members are editorial page editor Kate Riley, Frank A. Blethen, Donna Gordon Blankinship, Brier Dudley, Mark Higgins and William K. Blethen (emeritus).

## PLAYING CELL PHONE COVERAGE CATCH UP

By *Sheridan Wimmer* on July 12, 2018

Think about the things you rely on each day. The water in your shower coming on, the lights in your kitchen allowing you to see the coffee maker gurgling, the car starting right up (fingers crossed) and your cell phone having reliable service to check how many likes your recent Instagram post got.

For some Kansans, even uploading a photo to Instagram isn't feasible. THE HORROR! Many of our friends and neighbors in rural areas of the state go without reliable, dependable cell phone coverage – yes, even in 2018 and even when the cell phone coverage maps say Kansas is virtually covered by at least one cell phone carrier.

Steve McCloud, for example, is a farmer in Harvey County who experiences slow and sporadic access to cell phone reception.

Rather than uploading Instagram photos, McCloud needs high-speed cell phone coverage to help meet the demands of consumers. Just like any business, farmers and ranchers rely on technology to help them perform their jobs better. From selling cattle on an internet auction to using GPS in fields, high-speed cell phone coverage is important for these professionals to have.

“Having better cell phone coverage would mean fewer trips to McDonald's to use its Wi-Fi and more time making my farm perform efficiently so consumers can have the safe, healthy food they deserve,” McCloud says.

### Phoning up efficiencies

Living and working in rural areas of our state shouldn't mean you go without some of life's essentials, and we'd argue reliable cell phone coverage is an essential in today's digital age.

For rural areas, this would create a better connection to emergency services, advances in opportunities for education and entrepreneurship and increased efficiencies for farmers and ranchers to use precision agriculture.

The more efficient our state can be, no matter where you are, the better off we all are.

### The call to action

T-Mobile, long one of the more reliable rural-area cell service providers, is merging with Sprint. One of the potential benefits of this merger is a rapid rollout of 5G service across the country—and, because of T-Mobile's existing network, rural communities will be part of the network, rather than left waiting at the end of the line, according to T-Mobile and Sprint.

While we're excited and hopeful T-Mobile and Sprint can rollout 5G service to its rural network soon, in the meantime there are still areas in Kansas that need reliable 4G speed.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is providing \$4.53 billion in support over 10 years to primarily rural areas that lack unsubsidized 4G Long Term Evolution (LTE) service.

That is why [Kansas Farm Bureau](#) requested and received a waiver from the FCC to perform speed tests throughout the state to prove there is a lack of reliable cell phone coverage in several areas.

As you travel throughout this state – whether going on vacation, visiting family or on a business trip – consider participating in [speed tests](#) to prove reliable cell phone coverage is not a given in every part of Kansas. After all, you may be driving through some of these areas and need to make a call. Imagine not having reliable service to make an emergency phone call. Help your neighbors, your food providers, your friends and your family get the service they deserve.

*Born and raised in Kansas, Sheridan Wimmer has an appreciation for the state's agricultural diversity. Representing the best interests of Kansas farmers and ranchers is Sheridan's jam (or jelly, no discrimination).*

## LETTER: Year of Growth

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Posted December 7, 2018 at 9:08 AM

Dear editor,

The past year has been a strong one for growth in our economy, both nationally and here in Florida.

We can continue to do more, particularly to ensure that we have the right elements in place to keep job growth strong. One of the things that is critical to job growth and businesses is fast internet speeds. Because internet access is so tied to the ways we live and work, this has become an essential part of starting, owning, or running a business.

The merger between T-Mobile and Sprint means that we can move up to the next generation of wireless technology. Called 5G, for the fifth generation of wireless advances, it will bring internet speeds that will seem to be almost instant — allowing HD TV and video streaming without hitches and making things like telemedicine a reality.

The last big change in wireless technology, 4G, provided the foundation to build and grow some of the mobile internet's most popular companies. These firms are now household names. Lyft, Netflix, Amazon — all benefitted from our ability to surf the internet quickly on mobile devices. They also created many new jobs. 5G will do this too. It is in our interest to support this merger and the fast, 5G network it will bring with it.

**SUSAN MOORE**  
**Pensacola**



## **Letter: Please support the T-Mobile-Sprint merger**

Suzanne Gleed

Published: June 27, 2018 7:40 pm

This week, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights held a hearing on the T-Mobile-Sprint merger. Utah's great Sens. Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch will have a role in identifying the benefits the merger will bring to our economy and consumers, especially through the development of the first nationwide 5G network.

Whether you are a rancher in Salina or a business owner in Salt Lake City, you stand to benefit from this merger and 5G technology. I have family members in rural towns throughout our state, and the new T-Mobile will provide significant coverage improvements in rural areas and small towns. It's critical our policymakers understand the full scale of the benefits the T-Mobile-Sprint merger will bring.

As Utah quickly advances into the 21st century we need to ensure our state's leaders are making the right decisions for our state and advancing policies that support the continued global leadership of the businesses, universities and people who call this state home. Sens. Lee and Hatch, I hope you will represent the voices of your constituents and support the T-Mobile-Sprint merger because of the many benefits it represents for our state.

Suzanne Gleed

Lehi

# Sprint/T-Mobile merger shows promise for the Kansas City region

BY TRACEY OSBORNE OLTJEN | JUNE 06, 2018 08:26 PM,

With roots dating back over 100 years, Sprint is a household name in the Kansas City area. Therefore, it wasn't surprising when the April 29 announcement of a merger agreement between T-Mobile and Sprint created buzz and anticipation, as well as some uncertainty. This is expected with change, especially when it involves one of our cherished local brands.

As both companies explore a potential merger, city and business leaders, employees and area residents have been closely following developments surrounding this transaction. Speculation now begins to take shape for us locally and around the nation as details of the merger develop.

The merger builds upon Sprint's footprint in the region and promises positive impacts for economic growth, job creation and telecommunication leadership. As our region's sixth-largest private sector employer, Sprint plays an integral role in supporting the community and its people. Beyond Sprint's economic impact as an employer are its hallmarks of civic leadership and philanthropy. The company has made significant capital investment in projects such as the Sprint Center. Perhaps most importantly, you'll find Sprint team members engaged throughout the region and the country, leading civic and philanthropic organizations to improve our quality of life.

As it aspired to continued innovation and growth in the rapidly-changing world of wireless communication and connectivity, we've recognized that change could come for Sprint. This merger provides opportunities, as the new combined company promises positive impacts focusing both on people and investment. While skepticism about those promises is both healthy and expected, we're pleased with the transparency provided in the merger announcement and subsequent communications regarding net job growth and investment.

The news that Overland Park would serve as a second headquarters in the combined company is welcome. The promise that job growth will be a net positive for the combined company over what exists today, with leadership positions on both campuses, is encouraging. This recognizes the incredible assets our region and Sprint bring to the table: Kansas City's innovative, hard-working talent, low cost of living and the unique real estate asset of the Sprint campus in Overland Park. This positions us well for Kansas City to remain at the center of wireless innovation for the combined company.



Basic infrastructure used to mean roads, water and wastewater. Now it's also connectivity of people and data. The new T-Mobile stands to produce benefits far beyond the Kansas City region with promises of expansive coverage, including in underserved rural communities. With a mix of low-, mid- and high-band spectrum, the new company would be uniquely positioned to develop and deploy a nationwide 5G network. Estimates are that 5G could provide 20 times the speed of 4G. That means you could download 10 movies over 5G in the time it would take to download half of the first movie on 4G.

And the Internet of Things? That's nearly everything with an on/off switch that can connect to the internet and exchange data, from our phones to our cars, refrigerators, coffee makers, lamps, garage doors, wearables, traffic signals and oil rigs. Building a 5G network means we'll be able to leverage the full power of the next wave of connected devices, virtual reality and artificial intelligence. This brings great opportunities for telemedicine, distance learning and connecting first responders.

The new T-Mobile would build on Sprint's regional commitment and recently-announced national retail and network improvements. It would bring targeted benefits for us in Kansas City, plus deliver connectivity and access nationwide. We are proud of the Sprint legacy, and look forward to the bright future that lies ahead with the new T-Mobile.

*Tracey Osborne Oltjen is president and CEO of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce*

# The Fresno Bee

## Merger of T-Mobile, Sprint could bring high-speed service to Valley's rural reaches

BY VICTOR LOPEZ | FEBRUARY 21, 2019 06:16 PM

California's Central Valley is a region of significant bounty and one of the most agriculturally productive regions in the world. As a predominantly rural area, it is also a place that represents the limits of broadband coverage in the United States.

Communities in the Central Valley are chronically underserved when it comes to high-speed broadband. This has an impact on farmers, who cannot use the latest "smart ag" technology because the current infrastructure cannot provide the coverage and throughput needed for the tech to work correctly. It also affects companies large and small in the region, who increasingly depend on the internet to perform routine business functions. Healthcare, education, and the delivery of emergency services — all of these now require Internet connectivity.

The need to extend high-speed broadband to rural communities in the Central Valley is clear. Getting it done has proved to be a challenge.

The merger of T-Mobile and Sprint could finally bring high-speed broadband to these communities. The new T-Mobile has committed to significant upgrades to its LTE network, followed by a world-class 5G network. The company is looking to bring mobile broadband speeds of 10 Mbps or greater to 45.9 million rural residents and to provide fixed, in-home broadband service with speeds of 25/3 Mbps to 52.2 million rural residents.

T-Mobile has also recently announced that pending the completion of the merger, it will open a new customer Experience center in the Central Valley. This will bring approximately 1,000 new jobs to the region, in a high-tech, state-of-the-art facility.

All of this would be transformative to residents of the Central Valley, and everyone from businesses to individual families would benefit from the increased economic activity that jobs and improved broadband will bring.

As elected officials, we see the effects of what a lack of broadband access means to our communities. We support the merger because we understand how important access to high-speed Internet is to those we represent.

*Orange Cove Mayor Victor Lopez is also chairman of the Central Valley Latino Mayors and Elected Officials Coalition.*



## OPINION

# Competitive 5G: The Future of Broadband Internet for all Americans

BY WILLIAM LEHR

JANUARY 24, 2019

Our telecommunications system is at a generational crossroads and ensuring reliable access to high-quality broadband throughout the country — including in underserved rural and urban areas — must be a top priority. The best hope for achieving this vision rests with the development of true nationwide 5G networks.

The future of our digital economy must not be constrained by the limitations of our “last-mile” broadband infrastructure. An order-of-magnitude advancement in communications infrastructure is needed to handle continued exponential growth in traffic, while also delivering the improved reliability, real-time responsiveness, and customizable services required by the internet of things and 5G. To realize the 5G future, however, there will need to be significant new investment across the internet ecosystem, from network operators to application developers, shifting to smaller-cell architectures to meet 5G performance targets while continuing to meet the capacity needs of surging growth in traffic. Analyst estimates of the costs of upgrading U.S. mobile networks to 5G range from \$100 to \$300 billion.

Intense facilities-based competition among broadband platform providers will be essential to accelerating 5G infrastructure investment and ensuring the United States remains at the forefront of the global digital economy. The proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint has the potential to transform competitive dynamics in mobile broadband by creating a national facilities-based provider with the scale and capabilities needed to compete head-to-head with the two leading incumbents and large cable entrants. From 2010 through 2017, Verizon and AT&T have each sustained capital expenditures that averaged close to \$10 billion per year, while T-Mobile and Sprint each averaged closer to \$4 billion per year. With 5G on the horizon, the merger will change that balance at a critical moment, expanding the top tier of providers from two carriers to three.

Approving the T-Mobile-Sprint merger will greatly enhance prospects for sustainable, robust competition among broadband platform providers and accelerate the transition to 5G. Synergies from the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will enable a \$40 billion investment in America's world-class 5G infrastructure and tech future. Faced with a more powerful and invested facilities-based competitor, Verizon and AT&T will be pressured to invest more rapidly in 5G themselves. In the race to 5G, network operators cannot afford to lag behind their peers. As a result, Verizon and AT&T customers will also get 5G faster as a result of the T-Mobile-Sprint merger.

Furthermore, the transition to 5G will enable mobile networks to offer similar levels of broadband performance as fixed networks offer today. This increased performance will provide new, competitive options for the many consumers with few choices in fixed broadband today. The increased capital intensity of 5G broadband will create new opportunities for infrastructure sharing and new business models for local facilities-based providers. At the same time, 5G is likely to increase demand for specialized broadband services in vertical markets, providing new vectors for specialized broadband resellers or Mobile Virtual Network Operators to enter. A market where multiple strong 5G facilities-based providers compete to sell MVNOs their wholesale capacity will be more competitive than the current dynamic.

Promoting robust competition among 5G broadband providers is the best way to deliver the promise of 5G to all Americans. The pro-competitive merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will help achieve that outcome.

*Dr. William Lehr is an economist and industry consultant who serves as a research scientist in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, engaged in multidisciplinary research at the nexus of technical, economic and policy issues confronting the evolving broadband internet ecosystem.*



## **Guest opinion: The T-Mobile and Sprint merger is what we need**

By William Rappleye | August 26, 2018 10:00 am

The mission of the Draper Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote and support our local businesses by acting as a liaison between “business, government and residents of the community.” As Chamber president, I strive to serve this mission every day in my work, as do staff and Chamber Board members.

Most of the opportunities for support that come our way are important but limited to the local community and businesses. Occasionally we might be asked to support an initiative that affects our state or our region, but rarely do we have the opportunity to voice our support for something that would impact virtually every American.

The merger between T-Mobile and Sprint provides us with this opportunity. This merger will bring faster internet speeds and increase access to people and communities across the country.

I worked in the telecommunications industry for more than 20 years for such companies as Telecommunication Inc., Jones Inter Cable, United Cable of Colorado and Comcast. I have witnessed and been part of the changes that can be achieved through mergers. Bringing two companies together with a wealth of resources to make the speed of doing business better, improving the bottom line through new technology, is an opportunity to bolster all business.

Most people don’t spend a lot of time thinking about the technology that drives their smartphones and internet access and how it has changed the way we all do business today. It is worth taking a look back to see how far we’ve come in this technology revolution. The first generation of wireless freed us from the tether of land-based phone lines. The next brought us rudimentary text messaging. That was followed by faster speeds and higher transfer rates, eventually enabling video and mobile broadband internet access.

While urban and suburban areas now have 4G access, rural areas have not been so fortunate. Many remain stuck with limited access, and some lack wireless coverage entirely.

The merger between T-Mobile and Sprint will expedite adding these upgrades to the smaller markets as well. Each company brings a set of wireless assets to the table, and it is the combination of these assets that will allow the new T-Mobile to quickly deploy a 5G network. Locally we have experienced holes in coverage, or slow downloads due to lack of available bandwidth. 5G is a game changer in providing solutions to many current limitations experienced with 4G.

Importantly, a 5G infrastructure is also critical to American competitiveness. It's easy to take for granted many of the companies that are now household names, but Facebook, Netflix and Amazon — to name just a few — have been able to grow because of the mobile internet enabled by 4G. So when we talk about 5G, we aren't just talking about how companies might benefit right now — we're talking about the framework that will enable new companies to form.

The U.S. needs to lead in 5G, because countries that provide the best infrastructure first will be the ones that see innovative new companies form. Right now, we're falling behind, but the T-Mobile merger will help change that.

This merger is important for businesses, rural communities and individuals across our country. Support is critical, and I'm proud to lend my voice to make it happen.

*William Rappleye is the president and chief executive officer for the Draper Area Chamber of Commerce.*