

April 16, 2019

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

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

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

We have reviewed the letter to Asst. Attorney General Delrahim, Chairman Pai, and General Slattery from certain Tennessee state legislators concerning the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint that was filed by CWA with the Federal Communications Commission. We share and appreciate the interest in the transaction's effects on Tennessee, but the letter makes several inaccurate assumptions, and we take this opportunity to correct the record. In fact, as we noted earlier in this proceeding,<sup>1</sup> the Chamber believes that the proposed merger of Sprint and T-Mobile will bring considerable benefits to Tennessee.

***T-Mobile's pricing commitment will mean lower prices for consumers.*** Public statements show that prices will not go up as a result of the merger. John Legere, CEO of T-Mobile, recently stated, for three years following the merger, "unequivocally, that New T-Mobile rates are NOT going to go up."<sup>2</sup> This commitment applies to all rate plans and customers – prepaid or postpaid, in Tennessee and beyond. Moreover, the business plan for New T-Mobile calls for prices to decrease and consumers to get more data for their data. This is good for all consumers and, particularly good news for low income consumers.

***The merger will help bridge the digital divide.*** We agree that too many Tennesseans have too few choices for wireless and broadband services, but we see the merger as an opportunity to create the scale and incentives to enable New T-Mobile to invest in rural areas and help bridge the digital divide in Tennessee. By being able to offer 5G in rural areas, New T-Mobile will be able to attract more rural customers, which will help justify further rural network expansion. What's more, New T-Mobile plans to bring affordable in-home broadband service to rural communities. We believe that New T-Mobile will make more meaningful progress toward bridging the digital divide than either company could on its own.

***The merger will create jobs– not eliminate them or send them overseas.*** We respectfully challenge CWA's claim that the merger would lead to the loss of 30,000 jobs; it ignores T-Mobile's business plans and is simply wrong. T-Mobile has expressed clear intent to hire thousands of Americans to staff call centers and to

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Bradley Jackson, President and CEO, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission (Oct. 3, 2018), WT Docket No. 18-197.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from John Legere, CEO, T-Mobile, to Ajit Pai, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (Feb. 4, 2019), WT Docket No. 18-197.

build and integrate the new network. T-Mobile has also stated clearly that it will not combine MetroPCS and Boost brands, so claims that those stores and employees will be eliminated are unfounded.<sup>3</sup>

**National security authorities have already cleared the transaction.** In December 2018, CFIUS and the “Team Telecom” agencies cleared the transaction.<sup>4</sup> T-Mobile has also stated numerous times that it does not and will not use Huawei equipment in its networks.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, the transaction does not warrant any national security concerns.

**The merger will benefit Tennessee.** The merger will bring improved coverage, new broadband offerings for underserved areas, and job growth. New T-Mobile’s 5G network should also facilitate the use of numerous advanced applications that are critically needed in small towns and rural communities, like telemedicine and online research and education. In short, we believe that Tennessee stands to benefit greatly from the proposed transaction and New T-Mobile’s 5G network.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the record.

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Jackson  
President and CEO  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

#### Attachment

cc: (via email)  
Chairman Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly  
Commissioner Brendan Carr  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Geoffrey Starks

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<sup>3</sup> See e.g., Oral Testimony of John Legere, CEO, T-Mobile US, in front of House Judiciary Committee (Mar. 12, 2019) at 1:59:40, at <https://judiciary.house.gov/legislation/hearings/state-competition-wireless-market-examining-impact-proposed-merger-t-mobile-0> (Legere Oral Testimony).

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Loyaan Egal, Dep. Chief, Foreign Investment Review Staff, National Security Division, Dept. of Justice, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, WT Docket No. 18-197 (Dec. 17, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> See e.g., Legere Oral Testimony at 1:21:26.