



April 17, 2019

Via ECFS

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

RE: NOTICE OF EX PARTE
WT Docket No. 18-197: *Proposed Transfer of Control of Sprint Corporation to T-Mobile US, Inc.*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 16, 2019, the Rural Wireless Association (“RWA”) representatives (listed in Attachment A) met with the T-Mobile/Sprint Transaction Task Force staff (listed in Attachment B) to discuss the status of the above-referenced proceeding.

During the meeting, RWA informed the Transaction Task Force that its members had not experienced any outreach by T-Mobile to work on roaming agreements or to discuss resolution of RWA members’ concerns about the merger. RWA also informed the Transaction Task Force that its members were having difficulty obtaining VoLTE roaming agreements with T-Mobile and that RWA’s members were concerned that this continued lack of communication and goodwill signaled that, in the event the proposed merger is approved, New T-Mobile would similarly be unwilling to work with rural carriers. As RWA has previously noted throughout this proceeding, T-Mobile’s unwillingness to enter into commercially acceptable roaming agreements with rural carriers harms both rural and urban consumers, depriving rural consumers of affordable wireless access when they leave their home towns and depriving T-Mobile customers of wireless access when they travel through or to rural America causes public safety concerns and is not in the public interest.

RWA also expressed concern regarding T-Mobile’s acquisition of Iowa Wireless Services, LLC (“iWireless”), and the numerous negative effects this acquisition had on iWireless employees, iWireless retail stores, and Iowa consumers (especially those in Iowa’s rural areas, who no longer have access to a nearby retail presence to resolve technical issues with their T-Mobile devices or wireless service). RWA encouraged the Task Force to closely review the T-Mobile-

iWireless transaction and its impact on rural consumers in Iowa, citing to the details raised in the filing submitted by the Communications Workers of America.¹

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules,² this *ex parte* is being filed electronically with the Office of the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Caressa D. Bennet
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David Lawrence
Charles Mathias
David Sieradzki
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¹ See *Ex Parte* Letter from D. Goldman, Telecommunications Policy and Research Director, Communications Workers of America, to M. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, [App. A](#) (Mar. 1, 2019).

² 47 C.F.R. §1.1206.

Attachment A – RWA Representatives

Carri Bennet – General Counsel, RWA

Cynthia Chang – Law Clerk, RWA

John Nelson – Counsel, RWA

John Nettles – CEO, Pine Belt Cellular, Inc.; Board Member, RWA

Attachment B – T-Mobile/Sprint Transaction Task Force

Judith Dempsey – Office of Economics and Analytics

Kathy Harris – Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

David Lawrence – Sprint/T-Mobile Transaction Task Force

Charles Mathias – Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

David Sieradzki – Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Weiren Wang – Office of Economics and Analytics