Based my experience with Tmobile as a customer and as someone who has worked in this industry, I do not believe the merger with Sprint is in the public’s best interest.  First, this will not improve services in rural areas where both companies are weak. As an example, T-mobile has been unwilling to build out its network in rural area where I live in the panhandle of north Florida.  T-mobile has had multiple years to do this and the service is essentially unchanged.

T-Mobile now promises that the use of 600 MHz frequencies will usher in better services in rural areas but their role out so far still ignores most of these areas based on their lists of where the role out has occurred and my personal experience. Merging with Sprint may add a few towers but Sprint’s rural coverage is also poor. Putting the two together is not going to make their coverage any better.

Second, the 5g argument is spurious. T-Mobile is already planning to implement 5g service (and is currently demonstrating these services) to remain competitive with Verizon and AT&T in order for them to remain attractive to business customers. And there is growing evidence that T-Mobile plans on taking on the broadband industry with this technology. The Sprint merger will not change this.

Third, despite T-Mobile calling itself the “uncarrier” having only two major competitors cannot lead to less expensive service and better customer care simply because how competition works. If anything, T-mobile will begin withdrawing its “uncarrier” features that actually effect communication. An example is the foreign services or out of country services offered by T-Mobile.  Most recently the price of these services have started to rise with no notice except a text on the day it happened. Another example is that T-Mobile seldom announces when a sale will end. This type of unfriendly customer service behavior will get worse not better after the merger because there will less need for T-Mobile to set itself apart from its competitors.

Finally, while a merger of companies that have different strengths might provide some benefits to customers, this merger would simply be the elimination of competition. They don’t complement each other, they duplicate each other and I fail to see how the public will benefit in any meaningful way from this merger.