



August 30, 2018

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

**Re: Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, WT Doc 18-197**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Consistent with section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206, Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE) submits the attached material in support of the proposed transfer of Sprint Corporation to T-Mobile US, Inc.

Please feel to contact us should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Kandrach, President  
Gerard Scimeca, Vice President  
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy  
2221 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Attachment:

cc: (via email)

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Commissioner Brendan Carr  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

## **COMMENTS BY CONSUMER ACTION FOR A STRONG ECONOMY (CASE) IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED MERGER BETWEEN SPRINT AND T-MOBILE; E.G. “NEW T-MOBILE”**

It is with great anticipation that consumers look forward to the widespread availability and implementation of cutting edge 5G wireless technology, which will radically increase data transmission speeds by over 100 times - and beyond - today’s current 4G LTE technology. 5G is not just the foundation upon which our future economy will be built, but for generations will serve as the driving force impacting the lifestyle, health, work, travel and education of nearly every American.

Given its tremendous promise, it is critical that America move forward expeditiously to win the global race to 5G, or we risk losing our position as the world leader in technological innovation for the first time in two centuries. Unfortunately, America is quickly losing ground, as countries such as China, South Korea, and nations in Europe are outpacing the U.S. by billions of dollars in 5G investment. A recent study by Deloitte stated the U.S. is facing a “5G tsunami” from other nations, which could make it “impossible to catch up” unless we change course quickly. It is clear America’s stature as the global leader in technology and innovation is currently in a very precarious position. To win this race, it is absolutely crucial that lawmakers and agencies such as the FCC support all efforts that increase 5G investment and speed the building and implementation of 5G networks here at home.

The proposed merger between wireless carriers Sprint and T-Mobile, creating “New T-Mobile,” will strongly address this shortcoming with an injection of \$40 billion in new 5G investment. This investment will accompany an accelerated build-out of a true national 5G network before the planned networks of either Verizon or AT&T, allowing consumers to realize the numerous benefits of 5G far sooner than if the companies were to remain separate entities. Just as importantly, this positive injection of investment capital into wireless infrastructure will help propel the U.S. to the forefront of global competition, something both current FCC Chairman Pai and former Chairman Wheeler expressed as a top priority for our nation.

Investment in technology is the cornerstone that benefits not just our nation as a whole, but consumers as individuals. The New T-Mobile will end the duopoly of Verizon and AT&T, bringing competition to the industry that will drive innovation, speed 5G to market sooner, and lower prices for consumers. This is not something that can be achieved by these companies alone, as neither has the requisite spectrum bandwidth to produce a true nationwide 5G network in a competitive timeframe. Robust competition is central to more Americans having access to the promise of 5G. The Sprint T-Mobile merger will shake up the current status quo, and spur even more investment as each competitor seeks to better serve consumer needs.

It is further clear that millions of consumers in rural areas and small communities will be big winners from this merger. Because of the combined and complementary bandwidth of New T-Mobile, 5G will be far more accessible to the many homes and businesses who have yet to experience the true promise of broadband. This will not only create new jobs and more

investment in America's small towns and rural counties, but close the technology gap that currently plagues less densely populated areas.

New T-Mobile will further spark strong job creation, not just through its initial \$40 billion network investment, but also through the many products and services that will be created utilizing groundbreaking 5G technology. When the unbridled spirit of American innovators, creators and entrepreneurs is fully unleashed, the marketplace and workforce reap the benefits through the creation of untold new jobs and skills. The very fact that broadband and wireless technology will become more readily available to millions more consumers points favorably to the need for many new jobs in this booming sector of the U.S. economy.

America currently stands at a crossroads: we can either embrace the challenge of the transformative and revolutionary 5G digital technology by providing the support it needs to develop and thrive, or we can abide by the status quo and watch the world pass us by. Embracing the challenge means moving forward with new ways of thinking and new ways of innovating. And it means a strong commitment to actions within our private economy that lead to investment and corporate innovation.

The FCC has tremendous influence on which road we take, through its adjudication of the Sprint T-Mobile merger. We urge the FCC to consider America's global position in technology, future innovation and progress, economic innovation and job creation, and market competition all across the digital landscape. All of these factors will benefit consumers with products, services, conveniences and access we can barely imagine today. We urge the FCC to give its full and enthusiastic support to this important and timely merger between Sprint and T-Mobile.