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September 4, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Dortch,

As the Federal Communications Commission evaluates the merit of the T-Mobile-Sprint transaction, please consider the benefits the merger will bring to consumers across the United States by introducing new competition into the full range of broadband-based services and accelerating the coming 5G future.

Currently in the United States, 24 million people lack access to fixed high-speed broadband services in their homes. But even those who do have some access oftentimes lack any real choice between providers. About 10 million rural Americans have less than three choices between LTE providers, as Verizon and AT&T hold onto a significant majority of the wireless market.

Verizon and AT&T have distinct advantages that underscore the need for a supercharged competitor with the scale, spectrum, and sites to build a premier nationwide 5G network and provide additional choice to consumers in underserved and new market segments. That is precisely what a combined T-Mobile-Sprint will do.

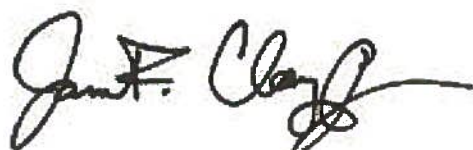
In addition, the wireless market is already seeing competition from a growing number of non-traditional entrants like Comcast and Charter, as well as companies like Dish, TracPhone, Google, Facebook, Republic Wireless, Ting, and RingPlus. The scope and scale of the New T-Mobile 5G network will necessitate a competitive response from parties such as these that are seeking to compete in the broadband market. The New T-Mobile won't just be a strong competitor to Verizon and AT&T, but also to cable and internet heavyweights competing in the broadband market.

This elevated competition will help accelerate deployment of new products, upgraded services, and lower prices from all providers. The FCC can take comfort on T-Mobile's pro-consumer Un-carrier strategy that thrives on putting customers first, creating competition, and being disruptive. If the merger is approved, the New T-Mobile will extend its competitive reach until every part of the market is competitive and no carrier can comfortably rely on a stable, uncontested share year after year.

The T-Mobile-Sprint merger is both pro-competitive and pro-consumer. We hope you will recognize the benefits the T-Mobile-Sprint merger promises our country. Illinois asks that you swiftly approve the merger agreement.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James F. Clayborne Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James F. Clayborne Jr.

Majority Leader

Illinois Senate

57th District

cc: (via email)

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