

## 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,

My name is Dr. Robert Mitchell, and I am founder and managing director of the Disaster Medicine Project, a nonprofit service organization helping communities become more disaster-resilient. We are developing templates and training for volunteer local rapid response teams, comprised mainly of Military Veterans who live and work in these WA State communities. Military Veterans have many of the skill sets needed in disaster response and planning, from extensive communications training to chaos management and leadership skills. Paired with the desire to help the communities in which they and their families reside, these Vet teams will be a powerful resource and force multiplier when traditional emergency response agencies are overwhelmed in a catastrophic event.

The work we do translates directly to T-Mobile's merger with Sprint from two perspectives: one, the pro-Veteran focus T-Mobile has long held as an employer in this state; two, the greatly improved public safety notification and response angle as 5G is deployed here and across the country. Communication and information management drive decision-making and actions taken in any disaster.

On the first point, T-Mobile has consistently been supportive of military families and veterans by offering a range of programs to assist with mobile phone plan costs such as T-Mobile ONE Military, to the commitment to hire 10,000 veterans and military spouses over the next five years. They routinely are listed as a top 100 Military-Friendly employer, and partner with FourBlock to help with career readiness for those who leave active-duty service and transition to civilian employment, often a very challenging process. In short, they are as supportive to Military Veterans as we could hope for from a major corporation.

The second point, deployment of 5G, goes to the core of the merger with Sprint. By combining forces, the two companies will be able to use their pooled assets to get a 5G network up and running—even in rural areas. For disaster response work, this is an invaluable ambition and incredibly important. Many rural and remote communities struggle with internet connectivity and dropped calls. In disasters, communication is critical; having a reliable high-speed network

available will dramatically impact emergency planning and disaster response and recovery, saving lives and reconnecting loved ones.

I am thrilled with the potential of this merger, and hope that it garners the support it needs to advance.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Mitchell, MD, FACOG

Disaster Medicine Project

425.879.3567 mobile



**SELF-RELIANCE REIGNS**