



**ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

September 13, 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 proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint, please consider the benefits the merger will bring to consumers and businesses across the United States and here in Illinois. While we support a thorough review of the merger and an analysis of any competitive impact, this merger promises positive impacts for economic growth, job creation and would help keep the United States as a worldwide leader in telecommunication infrastructure.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is an association that zealously advocates on behalf of Illinois businesses to achieve a competitive business environment that will enhance job creation, job retention, and sustained economic growth. This merger has the potential to provide for robust competition and lower prices for consumers – all while creating thousands of jobs.

The merger between T-Mobile and Sprint would help facilitate the United States' efforts to lead the way in next generation of connectivity. 5G connectivity is coming and it is important to strike early. There are many reasons why maintaining worldwide leadership in telecommunications is vital for the next decade. The United States' dominance and successful implantation of 4G/LTE connectivity gave us a decade of innovators and entrepreneurs, producing thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in U.S. gross domestic product. The deployment of 5G network promises an even greater network effect.

The potential benefits of a 5G network cannot be overemphasized. 5G will revolutionize communication, business activities, and pave the way for the coming "Internet of Things" and autonomous vehicles. This will result in ample opportunities for economic stimulus in every corner of our nation. One economic study shows that almost 25,000 new American jobs will be generated by 2023, directly because of the merger.

In today's international economy, we are competing against several other nations vying to be number one for 5G deployment. Being second is to be the first of the ones who lose. Approval of this merger is a win for businesses who rely on the connectivity and the consumers who will benefit from its advancements.

On behalf of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to support T-Mobile's merger with Sprint. Approval of this merger will allow the deployment of a nationwide 5G network which will fuel economic growth across Illinois and the rest of the country.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd C. Maisch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Todd Maisch  
President and CEO  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

cc: (via email)

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