



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,

On behalf of the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, in Bellevue, Washington, we write in support of the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint.

The Bellevue Chamber is the voice of business in our community, and on the Greater Eastside of the Central Puget Sound Area. We are dedicated to helping local companies grow their businesses, by working for sustainable economic growth and making our community a great place to do business. The Bellevue Chamber is a driving force in economic development for business retention and growth within Bellevue and across the I-405 suburban crescent

T-Mobile is headquartered here in the City of Bellevue, Washington, and is one of our largest employers. T-Mobile is a good corporate citizen and a leader in the local community. We're proud to have T-Mobile as a home-grown citizen of Bellevue and a partner in the effort to make Bellevue a great place for business.

According to T-Mobile's projections, within the first year after closing, the newly merged company will have 3,625 more direct internal employees nationwide. By 2021, the New T-Mobile company will have directly created upwards of 5,000 new jobs, including both badge-carrying employees and contractors. Many of these jobs are likely to be located within Bellevue and the I-405 suburban crescent, and this is precisely the type of economic development the Bellevue Chamber can support and eagerly does support.

T-Mobile has committed itself to making substantial investments in its network if the merger is approved. The cost savings from the merger will be used to invest nearly \$40 billion over the next 3 years to deliver a robust, world-class nationwide 5G network. This investment is approximately three times the amount that T-Mobile would have invested on its own without the merger. Again, this is a powerful engine for economic development throughout the region and across the country.

We also believe that the combined company's 5G network will bring increased broadband coverage to consumers across the country, especially rural Americans. East King County includes many communities without broadband coverage, or with poor coverage, and we believe the merger of the two companies will result in improved signal quality and increased network capacity. The companies have stated that these improvements will increase coverage to reach 96 percent of rural Americans, giving them access to the 21st century classroom, workplace, and economy.

The Bellevue Chamber is confident that the strengthening of T-Mobile, as defined in the proposed merger with Sprint, will benefit Bellevue and the I-405 suburban crescent, as well as the Central Puget Sound Area and the nation, by lowering prices, increasing competition, and moving all of America into the 5G future.

Thank you for taking the time to review our comments. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Marti". The signature is stylized with large loops and a prominent initial "J".

Josh Marti, Board Chair
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
330 112th NE, Suite 100
Bellevue, WA 98005

Attachment

cc: (via email)

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