

**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,

Prior to the Senate Subcommittee Hearing on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights regarding the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint, I sent the letter I have attached here to Senator Richard Blumenthal. I wrote to him in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments. We represent nearly 500,000 Connecticut residents, as nineteen mayors and first selectmen working together to ensure vibrant communities that attract businesses and residents.

In the letter, I encouraged him to support the merger as broadband access is clearly an issue that affects our citizens and businesses. Rural areas of our state are chronically underserved by broadband companies, but our urban and suburban areas are affected by a lack of competition too.

The T-Mobile merger with Sprint is our best opportunity to change this equation. Adding a real competitor will foster competition and introduce disruption in a currently stagnant market, which will benefit consumers.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rick Dunne

Rick Dunne  
Executive Director, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Attachment

cc: (via email)

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rick Dunne <[RDunne@nvcogct.org](mailto:RDunne@nvcogct.org)>

Date: Tue, Jun 26, 2018 at 12:17 PM

Subject: T-Mobile, Sprint Merger and Senate Subcommittee Hearing On Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To: [Anna\\_Yu@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Anna_Yu@blumenthal.senate.gov) <[Anna\\_Yu@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Anna_Yu@blumenthal.senate.gov)>

CC: [Sam\\_Simon@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Sam_Simon@judiciary-dem.senate.gov) <[Sam\\_Simon@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Sam_Simon@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)>, [Alexander\\_Petros@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Alexander_Petros@judiciary-dem.senate.gov) <[Alexander\\_Petros@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Alexander_Petros@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)>, [Collin\\_Anderson@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Collin_Anderson@blumenthal.senate.gov) <[Collin\\_Anderson@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Collin_Anderson@blumenthal.senate.gov)>, Neil O'Leary ([noleary@waterburyct.org](mailto:noleary@waterburyct.org)) <[noleary@waterburyct.org](mailto:noleary@waterburyct.org)>, Graham, Ellen (Blumenthal) <[Ellen\\_Graham@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:Ellen_Graham@blumenthal.senate.gov)>, [rich\\_kehoe@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:rich_kehoe@blumenthal.senate.gov) <[rich\\_kehoe@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:rich_kehoe@blumenthal.senate.gov)>

June 26, 2018

Senator Richard Blumenthal

706 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC, 20510

**Regarding T-Mobile, Sprint Merger and Senate Subcommittee Hearing On Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights**

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

On behalf of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) and the nearly 500,000 Connecticut residents we represent, I urge you to encourage consumer choice and competition by supporting the T-Mobile/Sprint merger. I have no doubt that the planned technology expansion by the new T-Mobile entity will finally bring much-needed broadband competition to Connecticut and broadband service to the grossly underserved west-central and north-west portions of our region and state.

It is well known that our state's rural communities are not well served by the existing telecom industry. What is less well understood is that our urban communities also suffer from a lack of broadband competition and coverage that hinder business and job creation. The opportunities presented by the promised T-Mobile development of the new 5G networks are impressive and competing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy demands access to these networks. But without approval of this merger and the challenge it will then present to Verizon and AT&T to accelerate their 5G network deployment, as well

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as to Comcast, Charter and Cox to respond to real marketplace competition in broadband, Connecticut businesses and consumers will not see reductions in cost and access to faster technologies to the benefit of all users.

The nineteen mayors and first selectmen of the NVCOG work every day to retain and attract business and to develop and redevelop our infrastructure to attract new families and millennials to our historic business centers, converting them into livable communities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Approval of the new T-Mobile will enable them to succeed by fostering competition and market disruption of the traditional, uncompetitive broadband providers who are currently failing to serve Connecticut business and consumers.

I urge you to support the T-Mobile Sprint merger in the Senate Subcommittee Hearing on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights.

As always, I appreciate the work you do for the citizens of Connecticut. I look forward to your response.

Best Regards,



Rick Dunne

Executive Director

cc: Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, Chairman

**Rick Dunne**

Executive Director



**Naugatuck Valley**

**Council of Governments**

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**3 attachments**



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NAUGATUCK VALLEY  
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

**image003.jpg**  
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