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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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September 17, 2018

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 Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, which represents over 1,000 individual member companies throughout Chicagoland, I write to request that you support T-Mobile's merger with Sprint. Approval of this merger will allow greater investment which will fuel greater economic growth across the country in an increasingly competitive and ever-changing telecommunications market.

High-speed internet access, or broadband, is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement. But there are too many parts of this country where broadband is unavailable. In urban areas, 97% of Americans have access to high-speed fixed service. In rural areas, that number falls to 65%. And on Tribal lands, barely 60% have access. Nearly 30 million Americans cannot reap the benefits of the digital age. The merger between T-Mobile with Sprint will help in bridging the digital divide.

According to the companies' public interest statement, one economic study shows that almost 25,000 new domestic jobs will be generated by 2023, directly because of the merger.

The new T-Mobile will provide the speeds and coverage needed to fuel economic growth. I hope you will recognize the benefits that the T-Mobile Sprint merger will bring to Chicagoland and the rest of the country. I ask that you approve this merger swiftly.

I appreciate the Federal Communications Commission's thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jack Lavin
President and CEO
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce