

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,

I am a fifth-generation farmer, living and working in California. I am also the owner and founder of Coastal Agro Tech, a company I launched back in 2010 that applies the latest in technology to agricultural practices. The field of “smart ag” is growing, and I’ve seen firsthand how it can benefit farmers and ranchers.

A critical component of “smart ag” and the technology being used is having the ability to receive and transmit data. You can invest in the latest and greatest technology out there, but if you don’t have the connectivity to use it to its fullest potential, you’re not getting the most out of your investment. There are plenty of rural communities—both here in California and across the country—that don’t yet have the high-speed connectivity they need to fully realize the potential of smart devices.

I’m supporting the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint because I feel that combining forces will allow us to get a high-speed 5G network up and running that serves the whole country, urban and rural areas. Each company is bringing a set of assets to the table that will help accelerate 5G deployment. A 5G network would have the capacity to handle up to ten times more devices running on it than current networks can handle. This is exactly the type of increase we need to keep in mind when we’re thinking about the next generation of wireless.

There are many exciting developments in agricultural technology, but we are just scratching the surface of what can be accomplished because the wireless infrastructure in rural areas is inadequate. We need to solve this coverage gap, quickly, for farmers and others in the agricultural industry to see the benefits.

This 5th-generation farmer is looking forward to the 5th-generation of wireless, and I hope that the FCC will move to approve the merger.

Sincerely,



Blake Ferini
Owner, Coastal Agro Tech