September 14, 2018

For formal filing as Comment to FCC – deadline for filing: Monday, September 17.

As conservatives, we intrinsically value competition as one of the most beneficial and productive forces in our economy. Consequently, mergers that bring large competitors together typically reduce competition, and therefore we seldom support them. However, the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint presents a different case.

The mobile telecommunications industry is currently dominated by four major competitors: Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, and T-Mobile. Sprint and T-Mobile together are somewhat smaller than either Verizon or AT&T but of a similar order of magnitude.

The major economic factor looming on the horizon of the mobile communications industry is the imminent adoption of 5G technology. Implementing that technology will require vast billions of dollars of capital investment. Sprint and T-Mobile as separate entities will be constrained in their ability to make capital investments on the scale required, thus placing them at a competitive disadvantage. If they are permitted to merge, on the other hand, the combined company would have a capital capacity similar to that of Verizon and AT&T.

Permitting Sprint and T-Mobile to merge is therefore a pro-competition policy, because it will set the stage for robust competition among three major players of comparable size. We believe that to be in the public interest. Therefore, we the undersigned leaders of organizations representing hundreds of thousands of mobile communication consumers support the proposed merger of Sprint and T-Mobile.

Sincerely,

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