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September 17th, 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

As President of the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce, I work regularly with our more than 450 members to promote a healthy, thriving business environment in our county. We believe that business success improves the quality of life for all of our county residents.

Rural communities often trail our urban and suburban counterparts when it comes to the latest technology upgrades. It's simply more efficient to deploy upgrades in densely populated areas first. However, this impacts our local businesses by making it challenging for them to compete with others that do have access to the latest, fastest technology.

The merger of T-Mobile and Sprint is of great interest to our Chamber members in Genesee County. T-Mobile has long been a trusted provider of coverage in rural areas. Together with Sprint, these two companies, combined as one, will have a complementary holding of airwaves. This means that the new T-Mobile will be able to quickly deploy a 5G network—and, importantly to us, it will be one that includes rural communities.

A shift to 5G would bring multiple benefits to our area. As stated above, it will level the competitive playing field for many of our small businesses. It also increases the potential for the growth of new, innovative companies in our region. One specific benefit is that the expansion of high-speed networks to rural communities will allow young people to work remotely in their profession. This will allow them to remain in the place they grew up and become contributors to the local economy.

Innovation, growth, and opportunities for businesses in our county are just some of the reasons the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce is supporting the T-Mobile merger.

As regulatory authorities begin their examination of the merger, I hope that the opinions of organizations like ours are taken into consideration. The future is 5G—and ensuring that future is extended to our rural communities should be a priority.

Sincerely,

Tom Turnbull

Tom Turnbull

President, Genesee County Chamber of Commerce