I am commenting today to express my concern over the rise of hyper-capitalism. Hyper-capitalism is the surrender of traditional values in favor of the acclimation of money. Mergers and acquisitions are the flavor of the last ten years, with many companies gobbling up all the competition and creating monopolies that would violate any reasonable interpretation of the Sherman Act.

Here is what the simple math on approved and almost completed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint means. One combined company with 126 million customers, rivaling Verizon (150 Million) and AT&T (141 Million). Instead of four major carriers, we are down to three. Please explain to me how the Commission can justify allowing this kind of strictly vertical integration will benefit consumers. “The trend toward vertical integration . . . seems likely to foreclose competition from a substantial share of the markets.” *Brown Shoe Co. v. US*., 370 U.S. 294 (1962).

Sprint, T-Mobile, and FCC Chairperson Ajit Pai have all been telling tale of the benefits to consumers. Mainly, more jobs and the expansion of the 5G network. Spint, T-Mobile, and Chairperson Pai neglect to tell us how the market here, defined as the entire United States, will find MORE jobs. If Spint and T-Mobile both had a store in a market area; like here in Columbia where they are less than half a mile apart from each other, how does the closing of one and the combination of it with another result in more jobs? Are you literally going to move every employee into the combined location? No.

The 5G network is in 15 markets right now. It will require the purchase of a new device for everyone wishing to use it, but other than that it was already well on its way. To say that this merger will make that happen any faster is only giving a reason to the new mega-carrier to justify raising prices.

Ajit Pai, prior to joining the FCC, worked for Verizon. This does not have a whiff of impropriety, it has a stench. The same kind that the continued practice of industry insiders moving back and forth between government regulator and industry employee. Until we stop allowing this to occur, major industry players will continue to allow gigantic mergers that are obvious violations of the Sherman Act. The proposed merger has been approved based on promises that will never be fulfilled. Approved based on benefits that were either inevitable on essentially the same time scale or make absolutely no logical sense. Based on strict party voting lines.