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January 30, 2015

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Letter Regarding TAC MDTP Report – ET Docket No. 14-143

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Thank you for your letter of December 4, 2014, transmitting the Technological Advisory Council (TAC) Subcommittee on Mobile Device Theft Prevention's (MDTP) Report to Sprint's CEO Marcelo Claure. The Report represents an important cooperative effort between the mobile communications industry, law enforcement, the insurance industry, fraud prevention organizations, the recycling industry, and consumer groups. Sprint is pleased to have participated in the MDTP and looks forward to working with other industry stakeholders to implement the Report's recommendations and to continuing Sprint's leadership in addressing the important issue of mobile device theft prevention.

Sprint shares your concern about the safety of our customers and has worked closely with law enforcement, FCC staff, Original Equipment Manufacturers ("OEMs") and other members of the industry to develop systems that will discourage mobile device theft and protect our customers from smartphone related crime.

Sprint has long maintained an internal database that prevents Sprint phones reported as lost or stolen from being activated on our network. In April 2012, Sprint committed to a multi-stakeholder, industry effort to implement an international database that prevents LTE smartphones reported lost or stolen from being provided service on any participating carriers' network. The implementation of this international database, which cost the industry millions of dollars, was completed in November 2013, and the database is now working to devalue stolen devices and help reduce the incentive to steal smartphones.

As an additional part of this cooperative agreement, Sprint is engaged in an ongoing campaign to encourage customers to use passwords and use one of the many "track/lock/wipe" applications preloaded on their devices or available through various app stores. These

“track/lock/wipe” programs can help consumers recover their lost or stolen smartphones and protect their personal information from smartphone thieves.

In March 2014, Sprint became the first mobile carrier in the United States to team-up with Recipero, an international company that provides an online analytics tool called CheckMEND to identify mobile devices that have been reported lost and stolen. The CheckMEND database is the most complete international listing of lost and stolen mobile devices available, comprised of consolidated data from major wireless carriers and law-enforcement entities globally. All Sprint retail buyback portals now employ Recipero’s CheckMEND online analytics tool, in addition to checking other internal and external databases before accepting mobile devices into our buyback programs. Sprint also began submitting the respective identification numbers of all smartphones, including CDMA only devices, that have been reported to Sprint as lost or stolen into Recipero’s CheckMEND database thereby making all of Sprint’s lost/stolen information more easily accessible.

Because the CheckMEND database is available to consumers and law-enforcement agencies, consumers are now able to verify that a pre-owned Sprint smartphone has not been reported lost or stolen before purchasing the device. Device refurbishers, resellers, and recyclers can also verify devices have not been reported lost or stolen, thus facilitating the market in legitimate pre-owned and refurbished devices and preventing e-waste from entering the nation’s landfills. Similarly, law enforcement is now able to verify the status of a Sprint mobile device using Recipero’s online tool for law enforcement.

In April 2014, Sprint joined other mobile carriers, OEMs, and insurers to develop a Smartphone Anti-Theft Voluntary Commitment to ensure that smartphones first manufactured after July 2015 for retail sale in the United States will offer, at no cost to consumers, an anti-theft tool with the capability to remotely wipe the authorized user’s data, render the smartphone inoperable to an unauthorized user so it cannot be used without a password or PIN and prevent reactivation without the authorized user’s permission.

We note that the recommendations of the MDTP to a large extent build on the strong platform created by this cooperative industry effort. Sprint has taken the Smartphone Anti-Theft Voluntary Commitment a step further by developing and publishing Sprint OEM Specifications and Requirements to ensure that Sprint devices meet the standards set in the Voluntary Commitment.

Finally, Sprint also has taken an active role in helping to prevent smartphone crime by working to fight international, organized, illicit trafficking in mobile devices. This effort includes participation in undercover investigations, lawsuits against identified traffickers, and working with OEMs to implement technological changes in mobile devices to make them harder to traffic. As part of our aggressive tactics to identify and stop theft and smartphone trafficking, Sprint has sued dozens of traffickers across the country. As of April 2014, Sprint had filed 42 lawsuits against 152 traffickers in federal courts, obtained 37 permanent injunctions and final judgments of more than \$93M.

Sprint is closely reviewing the MDTP Report and working with our industry counterparts on ways to put the MDTP's guidance to use. Sprint is also actively participating in standards activities including the GSMA NA regulatory subgroup on the lost/stolen devices and ATIS WTSC SN subgroup, both of which will be developing and implementing the MDTP Report's recommendations for GSMA and ATIS.

Sprint is committed to working with you and all other stakeholders towards a multipronged, cooperative solution to protect the public and combat mobile device crime. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. McKee', written over a white background.

Charles W. McKee

cc: Charles Mathias
Maria Kirby
Deborah Ridley