



**Minority Media &
Telecom Council**

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June 19, 2013

Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: SoftBank-Sprint Acquisition, IB Docket No. 12-343

Dear Chairwoman Clyburn:

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (“MMTC”) respectfully files this letter to point out that, notwithstanding a number of recent filings by the Applicants, the issues of concern to MMTC¹ and others such as the MVNO Association² remain unaddressed. Yet the record in this proceeding remains devoid of any information about how the proposed transaction would impact women and minorities and increase broadband access for underserved communities.

Diversity is an essential component of the Commission’s public interest analysis.³ Yet the record in this proceeding remains devoid of any information regarding SoftBank’s approach to diversity and broadband access.⁴ SoftBank can effectively address this critical deficiency by answering the key questions that we have posed.⁵

¹ Letter from David Honig, President, Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, to Hon. Mignon Clyburn, Chairwoman, FCC, at 1, IB Docket No. 12-343 (May 28, 2013) (“MMTC May 28, 2013 Letter”).

² Letter from Karen Brinkmann, Counsel to the MVNO Association, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, at 1, IB Docket No. 12-343 (June 12, 2013).

³ Applications of Comcast Corporation, General Electric Company and NBC Universal, Inc., For Consent to Assign Licenses and Transfer Control of Licenses, 26 FCC Rcd 4238, 4512 (2011) (Dissenting Statement of Commissioner Michael J. Copps) (citing diversity as one of “the three essential pillars of the public interest standard mandated by law.”)

⁴ See Applications of Sprint Nextel Corporation, Transferor, and SoftBank Corp., and Starburst II, Inc., Transferees, for Consent to Transfer of Control of Licenses and Authorizations, IB Docket No. 12-343, Public Interest Statement (filed Nov. 16, 2012); Applications of Sprint

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A call has been made for a new public notice and review period for this proceeding.⁶ MMTC takes no position on whether a public notice is necessary.⁷ If, however, the Commission elects to issue a public notice, and SoftBank has not answered our questions, then such a notice would be the ideal opportunity to put our questions on diversity and broadband access to the Applicants. If the Commission were to decide against a new public notice, MMTC believes that the Commission should require SoftBank to flesh out the record on these important issues, thus enabling the Commission to fulfill its responsibility under Section 310(d) of the Act⁸ to determine affirmatively whether the proposed transaction serves the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Respectfully submitted,



David Honig
President

cc: Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

Nextel Corporation, Transferor, and SoftBank Corp., and Starburst II, Inc., Transferees, for Consent to Transfer of Control of Licenses and Authorizations, IB Docket No. 12-343, Amendment (filed Dec. 20, 2012).

⁵ See MMTC May 28, 2013 Letter. DISH responded thoughtfully and constructively to our questions. See Letter from Jeffrey H. Blum, Senior Vice-President and Assistant General Counsel, DISH Network Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, IB Docket No. 12-343 (June 11, 2013). DISH's response illustrates the straightforward nature of our questions and the relative ease and expedition with which they can be addressed.

⁶ See Letter from Pantelis Michalopoulos, Counsel to DISH Network Corporation, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, IB Docket No. 12-343 (June 12, 2013) ("DISH June 12, 2013 Letter") (asking the Commission to issue a new public notice and review cycle to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the effects of the Applicants' revised merger agreement). MMTC remains neutral as between SoftBank and DISH and takes no position on the substantive issues raised in the DISH June 12, 2013 Letter.

⁷ See MMTC May 28, 2013 Letter.

⁸ 47 U.S.C. §310(d).