

Dr. R. Bruce Williamson  
Commissioner  
Maine Public Utilities Commission  
101 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Hallowell, Maine

7 October 2019

Mr. Scott Scheele  
Chief, Telecommunications and Broadband Section  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
450 Fifth Street NW, Suite 7000  
Washington, DC 20530

RE: *Support for T-Mobile / Sprint Merger*

Dear Mr. Scheele:

I am writing to indicate my concern about continuing efforts by the two largest incumbent mobile providers to block the merger of much smaller competitors by any means possible. I support the pending merger of Sprint and T-Mobile as the only sensible approach to create a viable competitive alternative to AT&T and Verizon for mobile communications customers in the US. I came from that industry, and more than most, know of the market advantages that the large incumbents enjoy, advantages that will (1) continue to erode the market for smaller players, (2) reduce the viability of needed investments in infrastructure and services by Sprint and T-Mobile, and (3) ensure that the investments of Verizon and AT&T are protected from competition. The merger of T-Mobile and Sprint creates a viable third provider with the capabilities and resources to invest in much-needed infrastructure that can compete effectively with Verizon and AT&T.

My comments are my own, because as a Commissioner at the Maine Public Utilities Commission we do not regulate mobile telephone service. My comments are based on having worked in telecom mergers and acquisitions and market analysis for the company that bought AT&T, i.e., SBC Communications, and from additional work in mobile networks, retail competition, and market development. Moreover, I am an economist with training in precisely these matters – market structure, industrial organization, and antitrust economics.

I strongly support the T-Mobile-Sprint merger and am hopeful that the Department of Justice will approve the merger.

Sincerely,



Dr. R. Bruce Williamson