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RE: Justification of Support for T-Mobile/Sprint Merger

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to respectfully offer the National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce's (NPRCC) support for the T-Mobile and Sprint merger. We offer our mutual support because we believe it will expedite restoration of fast, reliable broadband service in Puerto Rico, which in turn will help encourage the continued recovery of Puerto Rico's economy and communities after Hurricane Maria. In the long term, NPRCC is confident that the merger will enhance entrepreneurship and competition among small businesses and will improve the quality of life for the citizens of Puerto Rico.

As a non-profit organization created to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and business expansion throughout Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland. We act as a comprehensive resource for incubating business ideas, providing financing and planning assistance, leveraging new markets and opportunities, and advocating for policies that help our communities grow. NPRCC knows that access to broadband and other telecommunications services is crucial to Puerto Rico's economic and entrepreneurial growth. Education about how consumers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses can leverage the many benefits of broadband and advocacy for policies that will deliver high-speed broadband service and reliable cellular network coverage to as many Puerto Ricans as possible are key tenets of NPRCC's mission.

Communications will be key to Puerto Rico's recovery and growth following years of economic downturn and the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. The T-Mobile and Sprint merger can help provide this essential connectivity through its broadband services. Puerto Rico has been suffering an economic downturn for over a decade. Numerous factors contributed to the crisis, including population loss, a drastic decline in the island's job market, and overextended credit accompanied by significant debt.

As the DoJ is well aware, Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc on an already economically depressed Puerto Rico in September 2017, and much of the island remains devastated. Before the hurricane, nearly 85% of Puerto Ricans had mobile broadband service, and approximately 35% had access to fixed wireless service. The storm destroyed 91% of cellphone coverage, leaving nearly all Puerto Ricans without mobile phone and Internet service—and many without any communications services at all. This had dramatic consequences. Too many of the Puerto Ricans who died as a result of Hurricane Maria perished because of delays in receiving medical care—delays that may have been avoided if those in need of care could have contacted medical providers or accessed information about where to get help. Nearly a year later, consumers frequently experience inconsistent cell service. Lack of reliable connectivity denies Puerto Ricans a crucial lifeline as the island continues to recover from the storm and makes much-needed entrepreneurship and innovation more difficult to sustain, even for those with better access to basic services.

Puerto Rico appreciates the strong support it has received from the FCC, other administrative officials and agencies, as well as numerous members of Congress and we hope to add the DoJ to this list of supporters. However, despite these efforts, significant investment and deployment from private actors—including carriers like New T-Mobile, who are focused on expanding high-quality, reliable broadband service coverage—remains necessary to bring full recovery and true economic growth to the island.

After the merger, New T-Mobile will expand T-Mobile's and Sprint's existing coverage and capacity on the island to restore economy-boosting, life-saving communications services in Puerto Rico. T-Mobile and Sprint as standalone companies have faced challenges in competing with incumbents AT&T and the Puerto Rico Telephone Company on the island. But together, the combination of Sprint's 2.5 GHz high-capacity spectrum with T-Mobile's 600 MHz low-band, broad coverage spectrum will enable New T-Mobile to deploy an industry-leading mobile 5G platform. New T-Mobile's world-class 5G network will expand service coverage, improve signal quality and network capacity, increase speeds, and offer far better mobile in-home broadband options than Puerto Ricans have today, particularly those living in remote areas. The proposed transaction will enable further rural expansion, which will introduce more competition with AT&T and PRT, prompting rural investment and deployment in response. New T-Mobile has also pledged to continue its current small rural carrier assistance programs and relationships to promote wireless deployment in rural areas.

Access to New T-Mobile's 5G network is also expected to be more affordable than access to other carriers' networks. As New T-Mobile expands its capacity, the cost of delivering each gigabyte of data to customers will go down. This is especially important to the many Puerto Ricans who struggle to afford communications services or live below the poverty line—and who need access to this essential input to get back on their feet and contribute to the island's economic recovery.

New T-Mobile's 5G network will provide the high speeds, low-latency, and reliable connectivity necessary to enable enhanced capabilities in business, health care, and other applications that will help support recovery and promote economic growth.

First and foremost, New T-Mobile's highly reliable network will provide critical connectivity in emergencies. 5G technologies promise to provide faster, nearly real-time, always-on connections to an almost unlimited number of access points. Among other things, the high-capacity network will have the ability to transmit high-resolution video and audio to distant physicians, which will enable Puerto Ricans in remote parts of the island to access higher-quality medical care and to get it faster. Hurricane Maria was a painful reminder of how important it is to have reliable, high-quality connectivity to prevent unnecessary harm or loss of life.

Beyond the most basic needs, New T-Mobile's network will also provide the affordable, high-speed, high-capacity mobile broadband service that the many small businesses and entrepreneurs revitalizing Puerto Rico's economy depend upon. Traditional businesses in Puerto Rico have been struggling for years. But a new

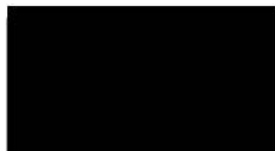
generation of Puerto Ricans and an influx of tech workers, including programmers, startup founders, and freelancers have created new companies and services as well as demand for a tech-oriented workforce and next-generation networks. The deployment of 4G LTE in the United States created a huge base of entrepreneurs who leveraged the new technology to spawn new businesses, products, and even new markets. And the arrival of 5G is expected to spur even more innovation and create even greater economic value, contribute to the overall U.S. economy, and reduce the Puerto Rican economy's reliance on transfers from the U.S. Federal Government.

While Hurricane Maria set back some of this progress in Puerto Rico, entrepreneurs have applied their creativity to disaster relief efforts. And after hurricane recovery is substantially complete, Puerto Rico's entrepreneurial communities will leverage the power of 5G to seize the many opportunities next-generation broadband connectivity provides and help Puerto Rico's economy rebound.

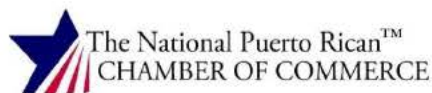
While T-Mobile has worked hard to leverage its investment in improve technology and service, it has also committed to continuing investment in Puerto Rico's future and in its network to expand and enhance LTE coverage after this initial deployment. These commitments are impressive, but the merger will further increase and accelerate New T-Mobile's investments and deployments in Puerto Rico. As T-Mobile and Sprint have explained in previously recorded applications, the transaction will generate approximately \$43.6 billion in synergies by 2024, and New T-Mobile will dedicate nearly \$40 billion to deploying its 5G network over the next three years, a portion of which will go toward the Puerto Rican network. All in all, it is anticipated that these investments will further increase the current and increasingly uncompetitive landscape that exists in Puerto Rico.

Given our experience with T-Mobile, we expect the New T-Mobile to deliver a reliable, high-speed, high-capacity 5G network that will provide a much-needed lifeline to the many Puerto Ricans who have lacked adequate communications and health services as a result of the economic downturn and, most acutely, in the wake of Hurricane Maria. New T-Mobile's mobile broadband will also help promote the growth of the new businesses that are revitalizing the island's economy. Finally, the merger will not harm local competition; instead, it will spur competitive responses from the incumbent providers particularly in more rural and remote parts of the island. The DoJ should approve the merger to help Puerto Rico expedite its recovery and grow its economy.

Respectfully,



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Executive Director



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