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Fast-Tracking the T-Mobile and Sprint Merger Undermines Public Interest

Washington DC (August 14, 2019) -- Today, Federal Communications Commission leadership recommended the approval of the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint, a move that would further consolidate the wireless market and eventually raise prices for consumers.

T-Mobile and Sprint are two maverick companies that have competed head-to-head to offer innovative low-cost products to consumers and create a vital resale market. Combining the two would likely raise prices across the market, and would be particularly harmful for low-income consumers who rely on mobile service as their sole connection to the internet.

Both companies have told the FCC and Congress that the merger is necessary in order to build out next-generation wireless networks, yet have simultaneously touted independent 5G deployments to the public. It remains true that ultimately, competitive pressure -- not consolidation -- is what will drive network upgrades.

“The FCC’s charge is to protect the interest of the public, not of private companies,” said Cat Blake, Senior Program Manager. “This deal is good for T-Mobile and Sprint, but will ultimately make it harder for Americans to access affordable, high-quality essential mobile services. Further, it is unacceptable that the FCC would move to approve a deal without first soliciting public comment on the significant [divestiture package](#) required by the Department of Justice. The public has a right to weigh-in on whether restructuring the deal with DISH would provide adequate consumer choice in the wireless market.”

A merger between T-Mobile and Sprint would be against the public interest. The FCC should follow the [16 state attorneys general](#) in blocking the deal.

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