



The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell  
801 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

February 12, 2019

The T-Mobile/Sprint merger is a unique opportunity to benefit consumers and give America's businesses a competitive edge in the global marketplace.

T-Mobile has pledged to spend nearly \$40 billion to build a world-class delivery system for 5G in the first three years, which will generate countless thousands of American jobs, both directly and indirectly. And they are pledging to do all of this while guaranteeing customer plan prices will remain the same or lower for the next three years.

The robust new network would provide access to world-class technology to even the most rural consumers. To improve the rural customer experience, T-Mobile has also pledged a minimum of 600 new stores and five state of the art customer experience centers located to serve rural areas and small towns. Two centers have already been announced in Overland Park, KS and Greater Rochester, NY.

Each of the new customer experience centers will create an average of 1,000 new jobs and, cumulatively, up to 5,600 additional American jobs by 2021. Every American deserves access to the personal and economic benefits of this exciting new technology.

Since 5G would eliminate the speed difference between mobile and in-home wired internet, millions of Americans would be free from the traditional and monopolistic local broadband providers. No longer will you or I have to deal with the only cable company in town, with high prices, inconvenient appointment windows, and terrible customer service.

However, the possibilities of 5G technology are beyond the imagination of myself or any government regulatory body. This isn't just about internet surfing and video streaming at lightning-fast, instantaneous speeds. It's about building intelligent cities, smart home appliances, cars which drive themselves, robotic automation, life-saving advances in medical technology, and other technological marvels that would sound today like "fake news."

Wireless internet development is one area where the economy needs more competition. If T-Mobile and Sprint are allowed to merge, there will be a company that competes with other tech giants - such as Verizon and AT&T - on a level playing field to ensure consumers from

coast-to-coast get the best high-speed wireless internet at the lowest possible prices. T-Mobile has always determined its marketing and prices to be the disruptive "Un-carrier," but it needs this additional scale to continue providing value to consumers.

This new technological environment will also increase the competition needed to encourage development toward greater high-band spectrum speeds.

America cannot afford to cede global leadership on 5G and the associated 5G-dependent technology. To ensure America's economic success, regulators simply have to step out of the way.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Kenneth Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Kenneth Blackwell