

**Opening Statement of Representative Long
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Protecting Consumers and Competition: An Examination of the T-Mobile
and Sprint Merger”
February 13, 2019**

As Prepared for Delivery

Today’s hearing gives us the opportunity to hear about how the American public can benefit from the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint.

The U.S. telecommunications market has changed dramatically in recent years. In order to foster innovation and growth in any industry, it is important that we ensure that there is a fair and competitive marketplace.

I’m excited to hear how the third and fourth largest wireless carriers in the U.S. plan to combine their spectrum resources to deliver a more robust nationwide wireless broadband network for consumers, drive innovation and investment, and better compete with the top two wireless providers.

Investments in next-generation broadband networks are important to reach underserved communities (like Southwest Missouri) and help close the digital divide.

I look forward to hearing from our witness' and how the New T-Mobile will drive innovation, help close the digital divide, benefit the U.S. economy, and provide consumers with more choices at lower costs.

I would like to Submit for the Record two documents:

1. Op'ed from the Missouri Times written by the head of the Missouri Farm Bureau – demonstrating support for the Merger in Missouri.

<https://themissouritimes.com/51394/op-ed-rural-missourians-to-benefit-from-t-mobile-and-sprint-combining/>

2. A letter in support of the Merger to the FCC from me and several of my colleagues.

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/5699740/Sproble.pdf>