

2ND DISTRICT
CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE

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REPLY TO:



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

LABOR & INDUSTRY, MINORITY CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING & INSURANCE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
LAW & JUSTICE
POLICY
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
PHILADELPHIA SENATE DELEGATION,
CHAIR

February 28, 2019

Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

As the State Senator for Pennsylvania's 2nd Senatorial District, I'm writing to you to express my serious concerns about the potentially negative outcomes of the proposed merger involving the Sprint and T-Mobile wireless networks. I thank the Federal Communication Commission for initiating a thorough review of the proposal and ask the FCC to complete this review with particular attention to the issues of consumer choice, marketplace competition, jobs retention, workers' wages, and consumer prices.

It's my understanding that the labor community and consumer advocates have already shared their skepticism for the merger on similar grounds. My constituents have shared with me research indicating that the merger could cause consumer prices to rise 15.5 percent for prepaid plans and 9.1 percent for other plans from these carriers. Furthermore, an analysis by the Communications Workers of America predicts that 30,000 American jobs would be lost, including 635 in Pennsylvania, as a direct result of retail store consolidations and closings.

These outcomes would likely have a disproportionate affect on low- and moderate-income consumers because these two carriers are among the nation's top three providers of prepaid wireless plans. Similarly, the merger would have a disproportionate affect on the urban areas where Sprint and T-Mobile have largely built their networks.

I am confident that the FCC will exercise due diligence in examining the risks and likely outcomes of the proposed merger. As you know, compliance with our nation's high anti-trust, consumer protection, and public interest standards must be a foremost consideration in this review. If those standards are not satisfied, I would respectfully urge the FCC to recommend that this merger not be approved as proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M. Tartaglione".

Christine M. Tartaglione
State Senator – 2nd District

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PHILADELPHIA SENATE DELEGATION,
CHAIR

February 28, 2019

Makan Delrahim
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Delrahim,

As the State Senator for Pennsylvania's 2nd Senatorial District, I'm writing to you to express my serious concerns about the potentially negative outcomes of the proposed merger involving the Sprint and T-Mobile wireless networks. I thank the Office of the Attorney General for initiating a thorough review of the proposal and ask the Office to complete this review with particular attention to the issues of consumer choice, marketplace competition, jobs retention, workers' wages, and consumer prices.

It's my understanding that the labor community and consumer advocates have already shared their skepticism for the merger on similar grounds. My constituents have shared with me research indicating that the merger could cause consumer prices to rise 15.5 percent for prepaid plans and 9.1 percent for other plans from these carriers. Furthermore, an analysis by the Communications Workers of America predicts that 30,000 American jobs would be lost, including 635 in Pennsylvania, as a direct result of retail store consolidations and closings.

These outcomes would likely have a disproportionate affect on low- and moderate-income consumers because these two carriers are among the nation's top three providers of prepaid wireless plans. Similarly, the merger would have a disproportionate affect on the urban areas where Sprint and T-Mobile have largely built their networks.

I am confident that the Office of the Attorney General will exercise due diligence in examining the risks and likely outcomes of the proposed merger. As you know, compliance with our nation's high anti-trust, consumer protection, and public interest standards must be a foremost consideration in this review. If those standards are not satisfied, I would respectfully urge the Attorney General to recommend that this merger not be approved as proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine M. Tartaglione".

Christine M. Tartaglione
State Senator – 2nd District