



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4302**

June 20, 2013

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The Honorable Mignon Clyburn  
Acting Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Clyburn:

As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, I am concerned about the potential acquisition of Sprint Nextel Corporation, one of America's largest wireless companies, by SoftBank Corporation, a Japanese telecommunications company.

The transfer of Sprint to SoftBank would entail the passing of substantial U.S. telecommunication infrastructure into foreign hands. Sprint controls more broadband spectrum than any other company. Furthermore, Sprint has contracts with several U.S. agencies, including those that frequently deal with sensitive information, such as the Department of Defense. Allowing any foreign entity to oversee such a network is enough to raise security concerns, but this proposed acquisition is especially alarming considering how it could increase our vulnerability to China, a country that has repeatedly shown its willingness to launch cyber attacks on our systems.

Although SoftBank is a Japanese company, much of its operations are dependent on Huawei, a Chinese communications equipment manufacturer that has been accused of producing equipment that can be easily accessed by the Chinese government and military. Huawei is the same company that you expressed concerns about in March for violating Iran sanctions. It should also be noted that a board member of SoftBank has admitted to bribing Chinese officials for contracts, showing the close and even illicit relationships SoftBank has maintained with the Chinese government.

Consistent with all existing rules, regulations and ethical guidelines, I urge you to take a close look at SoftBank's acquisition of Sprint. I am concerned that such an acquisition could leave our telecommunications infrastructure vulnerable to cyber attacks, posing a significant risk to our national security.

God and Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Poe', with a series of sharp, repetitive peaks and valleys followed by a horizontal line.

Ted Poe  
Member of Congress  
TEXAS

