



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

February 11, 2020

The Honorable David Cicilline  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2244 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

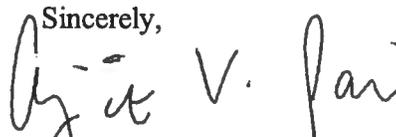
Dear Congressman Cicilline:

I write in response to your letter regarding the proposed merger between T-Mobile and Sprint. On November 5, 2019, the Federal Communications Commission issued an order approving—with conditions—the transfer of control applications filed by T-Mobile and Sprint. The Commission has correctly concluded that this transaction is in the public interest and, in particular, that the transaction will help secure United States leadership in 5G, close the digital divide in rural America, and enhance competition in the provision of advanced wireless services.

In considering this transaction, the Commission followed the standard administrative process. The Commission compiled a voluminous record following a series of public notices seeking public input on various aspects of the transaction. Commission staff conducted an exhaustive examination of the evidence, including review of hundreds of thousands of pages of pleadings, documents, and the substantial material filed by the Applicants and third parties in response to our information requests. In addition, Commission staff studied and analyzed the engineering and economic models submitted by the Applicants and other commenters and independently analyzed the public interest claims of the Applicants and third parties. The staff then drafted a recommended disposition that I circulated. Each commissioner then had an opportunity to propose edits to the document. Once adopted, the order was released.

Notably, this process gave far more opportunity for public input than that applied by the FCC during the Obama Administration (with the support of one current member of the Commission, whom you cited) when it approved the simultaneous consolidation of the second-, third-, and fifth-largest cable companies in the United States. This \$78 billion merger was three times the size of the T-Mobile and Sprint transaction, and one on which the agency issued a lone public notice seeking comment *eight months* before approval, despite attaching substantial, non-merger-specific conditions at the last moment.

I appreciate your interest. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai