Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2019

John Legere
Chief Executive Officer
T-Mobile USA, Inc.
12920 SE 38th Street
Bellevue, Washington 98006-1350

Dear Mr. Legere,

We are writing to request additional information regarding a recent report that you and other T-Mobile U.S. Inc. (T-Mobile) executives started to regularly patronize President Trump's hotel in Washington, D.C. immediately after announcing a proposed merger with Sprint Corporation (Sprint), which must undergo review by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). These transactions raise questions about whether T-Mobile is attempting to curry favor with the President through the Trump Organization and exacerbate our concerns about the President's continued financial relationship with the Trump Organization.

On April 29, 2018, T-Mobile and Sprint announced a $26 billion merger deal, "moving to create a new telecommunications giant … [that] would have more than 100 million subscribers."[1] The two companies had previously attempted to merge in 2014 but abandoned the deal after concluding that it "would never pass regulatory muster."[2]

One day after the April 2018 announcement of the merger, DOJ "opened an investigation in to the proposed merger" and has since been coordinating with the FCC in its investigative efforts.[3] That same day, staff at the Trump International Hotel were reportedly provided with a list of "'VIP Arrivals' … including [T-Mobile's] chief operating officer, chief technology officer, chief strategy officer, chief financial officer and its outspoken celebrity chief executive, John Legere."[4] Over the next few months, T-

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[1] New York Times, "Sprint and T-Mobile to Merge, in Bid to Remake Wireless Market," Michael J. de la Merced and Cecilia Kang, April 29, 2018, https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/29/business/dealbook/sprint-tmobile-deal.html.

[2] Forbes, "There'd Be No Wireless Wars Without The Blocked T-Mobile Merger, So Where Does That Leave Comcast-TWC?," Mark Rogowsky, August 27, 2014, https://www.forbes.com/sites/markrogowsky/2014/08/27/t-mobile-and-sprint-continue-to-battle-thanks-to-the-government/#490f11b31603.

[3] Letter from Scott Scheele, Chief of DOJ Telecommunications & Broadband Section to Kris Monteith, Chief of FCC's Wirelines Competition Bureau, April 30, 2018, https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/1050138392831/2018%20Kris%20Monteith%2C%20Esq.%2C%20Chief.pdf.

[4] Washington Post, "T-Mobile announced a merger needing Trump administration approval. The next day, 9 executives had reservations at Trump's hotel.," Jonathan O'Connell and David A. Fahrenthold, January 16, https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-place-i-feel-very-comfortable-t-mobile-executives-seeking-government-approval-for-merger-stayed-at-trumps-hotel-repeatedly/2019/01/15/6a114d3e-142c-11e9-b6ad-9cfd62dbb0a8_story.html.

Mobile executives "returned to President Trump's hotel repeatedly," reportedly spending thousands of dollars, booking "38 nights of hotel stays" at the Trump International Hotel. John Legere, T-Mobile's Chief Executive, "appears to have made at least four visits to the Trump hotel, walking the lobby in his T-Mobile gear."[5]

The decision to stay at the Trump Hotel appears to be unusual for several reasons. Your stay began one day after the merger announcement. You had a particularly high profile during your stay, walking the lobby in an outfit described as "a walking billboard for T-Mobile," posing for Instagram pictures, and, during a later stay, meeting in the lobby with former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. You also chose to stay at the Trump International Hotel in 2018 despite a "public spat" in 2015 in which you publicly complained about the service at a Trump hotel in New York and then announced that "I will obviously leave your hotel right away" and mocked the hotel after Donald Trump said your company's service was "terrible."[6]

The recent reports surrounding T-Mobile executives' decision to patronize the Trump International Hotel – which could influence administration decision making and from which the President could potentially receive financial gain – are concerning. To address these concerns, we ask that you provide answers to the following questions by February 18, 2019.

1. Prior to April 29, 2018, did you or other top T-Mobile officials stay at the Trump International Hotel?

    a. If so, please provide the dates of you stay at the hotel and the names of the executives.

    b. If not, which hotels did you and other company executives stay at in the Washington, D.C. area?

        b.i. Why did you switch your usual practices and start staying at the Trump Hotel in April 2018? Please provide any e-mails or other documentation relating to this decision and the rationale.

2. Did you or any other T-Mobile executives communicate with any administration officials that you intended to or booked your hotel stays at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.? If so, please identify all such communications, the individuals involved in the discussion, the date on which they occurred, and the nature of the conversation.

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[5] *Id.*
[6] *Id.*

3. Did you or any other T-Mobile executives communicate with Donald Trump, Jr., Eric Trump, or any other member of the Trump family that you intended to or booked your hotel stays at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.? If so, please identify all such communications, the individuals involved in the discussion, the date on which they occurred, and the nature of the conversation.

4. Did you or any other T-Mobile executives communicate with Corey Lewandowski or any other T-Mobile lobbyist or representative that you intended to or booked your hotel stays at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.? If so, please identify all such communications, the individuals involved in the discussion, the date on which they occurred, and the nature of the conversation.

5. Are you aware of any communication between Trump Organization officials and administration officials regarding your and/or other T-Mobile executives' stay at the Trump International Hotel?

6. What was the total amount spent by T-Mobile officials at the Trump International Hotel between April 2018 and the present? Do you have any knowledge of the disposition of these funds?

7. T-Mobile and Sprint abandoned a merger attempt in 2014, after concluding that such a deal "would never pass regulatory muster." Did the strategy to obtain approval for the merger include any attempts to contact or communicate with Trump Organization executives and/or plans to patronize Trump Organization properties?

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress