



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne  
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

February 2, 2023

Dear Minister Champagne,

We are writing you today with respect to the proposed merger of Rogers and Shaw. As the Competition Bureau has made clear, this merger would harm millions of consumers through higher prices, lower quality service, and less innovation for wireless services.

Consumer watchdog groups, industry experts, and academics have also laid out the many ways weakened competition, in an already small telecoms market, will invariably hurt consumers. All this at a time when we know Canadians are already paying far too much for existing telecom services compared to other countries. It's why we have heard overwhelmingly from our neighbours with respect to their shared concerns with this proposed deal. For all these reasons, we join the many other Parliamentarians and civil society organizations urging you to reject this proposed merger.

We are all too familiar with the consequences of relying on a limited number of telecom providers. In July 2022, the Rogers outage impacted millions of Canadians, crippling essential services, including payment systems, government services, and even access to 911. The solution is clear: we need more competition, not less. A healthy number of competitors in the telecom sector would reduce our dependence on a handful of providers when there are unforeseen network interruptions.

Or, going a step further, we would encourage you to consider the possibility of building a national, publicly-owned telecommunications network that provides high-quality, affordable service to everyone. As one example in Saskatchewan, SaskTel has proven that nationalizing telecoms can not only lead to lower prices, but better service for rural customers.

From your recent visit to Waterloo Region, we know you believe in the power of measuring impact, of committing to action, and to showing results. Imagine the results we could demonstrate to Canadians with some political leadership here. You have a rare opportunity to bring vitality and better options to a sector that desperately needs it, at a time when Canadians can't afford less of it. We hope you'll make the most of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Morrice".

Mike Morrice  
MP for Kitchener Centre

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth May".

Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada