

February 8, 2019

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Proceeding Numbers: A.18-07-011 and A.18-07-012

To the Commissioners:

The CalAsian Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest statewide ethnic chamber, representing more than 600,000 Asian Pacific Islander (API) businesses in California. We are committed to advancing programs and policies that help our members grow their businesses.

Our interest in the merger of T-Mobile with Sprint is the positive impact it stands to have on our members from two perspectives: it will help them in their business ventures, and it will also benefit them on a more personal level.

The business case is a straightforward one to make. Technology has a substantial impact on businesses large and small—virtually every type of company. It doesn't matter if you are a large global business, a small brick-and-mortar retail store, or an individual proprietor selling online, you need Internet access to run a business in the 21st century, and that Internet connection must be reliable and fast. One of the primary benefits of the merger is that it will enable the combined company to build a fast, nationwide 5G network with much greater capacity and better speed and performance than the standalone companies could provide.

This is exactly the type of commitment to improving wireless infrastructure that we need to see. There has been a dramatic increase in mobile commerce, and mobile networks need to keep up. Building a 5G network is needed, and New T-Mobile's efforts will spur other major carriers to dedicate resources in this area as well, creating a competitive cycle that will accelerate deployment.

Technological leadership is critical to California's economy, and the CalAsian Chamber of Commerce recognizes this, which is why technology and innovation consistently find a place on our list of policy priorities.

Equally important but perhaps not as obvious are the benefits to our members on a more personal level. Healthcare is another important policy priority for our membership. Many in the API community are affected by chronic health conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes. When you own a business, carving out time to care for your health often takes a back seat—especially when it means taking hours out of your day, away from your work, to spend at doctors' offices. Telehealth services present an attractive alternative for our members, but these services require fast, reliable Internet on both sides of the connection. If a medical provider has a fast connection but the patient doesn't, telehealth falls short of its promise.

The benefits this merger will bring are critically important to our members, especially those that currently lack access to high-speed broadband. We feel strongly enough about this merger and

its potential that we have made a point to attend all three of the CPUC public hearings on the topic, and have also participated in the CPUC technical workshop.

Thank you for extending the opportunity to participate on all of these occasions. We value the chance to convey our thoughts on this important issue, and are hopeful that our contributions will encourage the CPUC to vote in favor of the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint.

Sincerely,



Pat Fong Kushida
President & CEO
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce