

October 10, 2019

Mr. Scott Scheele
Chief, Telecommunications and Broadband Section
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice
450 Fifth Street NW, Suite 7000
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Chief Scheele:

The CalAsian Chamber of Commerce represents more than 600,000 Asian Pacific Islander (API) businesses in California, making us the state's largest ethnic Chamber of Commerce. We work to advance policies and proposals that help our members build and grow their businesses.


We have been outspoken in our support for the merger of T-Mobile with Sprint, attending all three of the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) hearings and participating in the CPUC technical workshop, while it was a matter of contention in California. Increased high-speed broadband access will benefit all Californians and it is something T-Mobile is committed to providing. In this regard, there are two things that our membership hopes to see happen.

The first is the positive impact the merger will have on the business climate here in California, which will benefit our members. Companies large and small now depend on the Internet to accomplish routine, daily tasks from ordering materials to payroll and banking. Mobile commerce grows in importance each year and having a high-speed 5G network would benefit businesses, regardless of size. New T-Mobile has also committed to building a new call center in the Central Valley, providing approximately 1,000 new jobs and an economic boost to a region that is often times ignored by large employers.

The second aspect of interest to members is the potential personal impact that high-speed broadband could have on their daily lives, particularly telehealth services. Asian Pacific Islanders are at increased risk for, and endure a number of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. Many are also small business owners, who find it difficult to get away for frequent doctor's appointments. High-speed Internet in the home would allow for improved access to telehealth services, eliminating the need for travel, increasing access for low-income or elderly patients, and lowering the cost of treatment.

When we talk about living in an increasingly digital world, these are the types of examples that come to mind. This merger presents California with the opportunity to quickly see the benefits of a 5G deployment—which is important to our state's future growth and success. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Pat Fong Kushida
President/CEO