



August 8, 2019

Open Letter to Policymakers and Regulators From Community Leaders Urging Support for T-Mobile/Sprint Merger to Benefit California Consumers

Dear Policymakers and Regulators:

We urge you to support the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint because the proposed transaction will benefit all California consumers. T-Mobile has made nearly 50 verifiable, enforceable and specific commitments for California as part of the CPUC's review of the merger, including commitments relating to 5G deployment and network buildout, pricing, jobs, network resiliency and emergency preparedness, digital literacy, diversity and inclusion, and support for LifeLine customers.

New T-Mobile will:

Lower Prices and Increase Competition:

- New T-Mobile will have the scale and resources needed to be a viable competitor to Big Telecom and Big Cable in a way the individual companies cannot do on their own.
- To jumpstart this competition, New T-Mobile will make available the same or better rate plans as those offered by T-Mobile or Sprint for three years following the close of the transaction with 5G included at no extra charge.
- Economists predict that competitive pressure from New T-Mobile will produce a price drop of up to 55 percent per gigabyte six years after closing as a result of the transaction.
- In-home broadband service will create competition and choice enabled by the merger, saving California consumers billions of dollars annually within six years after closing.

Bring Reliable, Highspeed 5G Wireless to 99% of California Households

- New T-Mobile will spend billions of dollars on network capital expenditures in California and billions more across the United States to deploy 5G technology, including in rural areas.
- Millions of Californians also will get access to in-home broadband choice and competition, including in rural areas.
- In addition, coverage and speed commitments will be verified by an independent third-party testing firm.
- These commitments are legally enforceable and subject the company to billions of dollars in fines if not met.
- Rural and underserved communities will be put at the front of the line nationally and in California.

Accelerate High Tech Growth in the Central Valley by Generating More Than 1,000 New, High-Wage, Fully-Benefited Jobs for Inland California Residents

- The new Customer Experience Center (CEC) located in the Kingsburg area of the Central Valley, will directly employ at least 1,000 people in high-paying jobs with benefits – most of which are attainable with a high school diploma.
- According to the independent Berkeley Research Group, the Center will pay average wages that are roughly 50% higher than the average wages in Fresno County. According to the same report, direct and indirect employment resulting from the new Center would generate \$7-8 million in new tax revenues.
- Additionally, the Center will contribute as much as \$122 million to California's economy.

Enhance Emergency Preparedness and Response for Wildfires, Flooding and Other Emergencies

- Continuous 5G coverage will be provided within 5 years at 10 rural fairgrounds, with priority given to fairgrounds that frequently serve as evacuation centers during disasters and emergencies.
- Local government response times could be improved with the 5G network's ability to enable smart sensors to transmit alerts and local information during emergency response.
- New T-Mobile will retain in California existing temporary cellular communications facilities and increase the number of those facilities by 50% by 2021.

Invest Millions of Dollars to Support Low-Income Students and Digital Inclusion Programs

- New T-Mobile will nearly double the size of its school-based programs that provide free high-speed Internet service and devices to low-income California families with elementary-aged children—to a total of 112,000 students in the state.
- New T-Mobile will provide support for digital literacy training and school improvements by investing \$35 million in schools, students, and families through LifeLine, School2Home, and other digital inclusivity programs.

Add More Than 300,000 New Low-Income Consumers to LifeLine, Increasing the Program to at Least 675,000 Customers

- LifeLine services for low-income households will continue to be offered for free, along with free high-speed data and complimentary handsets with faster broadband speeds and wider coverage.
- New T-Mobile also will invest up to \$5 million dedicated to outreach and promotion of LifeLine service and enrollment of new LifeLine and low-income customers.

New T-Mobile benefits all California consumers. Please support and approve New T-Mobile because it is in the public interest to take action immediately.

Sincerely,

African-American Farmers of California
AMVETS, Department of California
Asian Business Association – Inland Empire
California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce
California Center for Rural Policy
California Emerging Technology Fund
California Foundation for Independent Living
Centers
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
California Partnership for the San Joaquin
Valley
Central Valley Latino Mayors & Elected Officials
Coalition
City of Fowler
City of Kingsburg
City of Orange Cove
City of Parlier
City of Selma

Covered Community
Fresno Native American & Business
Development Center
Fresno State Office of Community and Economic
Development
human-I-T
JobTrain
Latin Business Association
League of United Latin American Citizens in
California
Los Angeles County Regional Broadband
Consortia
Manchester Community Technologies
National Action Network, LA
National Action Network, Sacramento
National Diversity Coalition
National Guard Association of California
Nisei Farmers League

OneVet, OneVoice
Reserve Officers Association, Department of the
Golden West
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband
Consortium
Si Se Puede Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare
Sierra Business Council
Southeast Community Development
Corporation
Southern Border Broadband Consortium
Tahoe Prosperity Center
Tech Exchange
United Ways of California
Valley Vision
Women Veterans Alliance