The Hon. Clifford Rechtschaffen California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Applications 18-07-011 and 18-07-012

Dear Commissioner Rechtschaffen:

Sprint Communications Company L.P. (U-5112-C), Sprint Spectrum L.P. (U-3062-C), Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. (U-4327-C), and T-Mobile USA, Inc. ("T-Mobile USA") (collectively, the "Joint Applicants") respectfully submit this letter to highlight and reiterate the need for prompt resolution of these proceedings.

On October 4, 2018, you adopted a schedule for the proceedings in these matters, setting the dates for submission of opening and reply briefs as March 1, 2019 and March 15, 2019, respectively, and setting the date for a proposed decision as the second quarter of 2019.¹ On February 26, 2019, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Bemesderfer modified that schedule, setting extended deadlines of March 29 for opening briefs and April 12 for reply briefs.² Joint Applicants appreciate that the ALJ's February 26 order explicitly stated that the timing for a proposed decision would remain unchanged,³ but as noted above, the schedule set out in the Amended Scoping Memo provides a broad three-month range, rather than a specific date, for issuance of a proposed decision. Accordingly, Joint Applicants write to underscore the importance of a final decision by the Commission as early in the second quarter of 2019 as possible.

As of the date of this letter, the 180-day "shot clock" governing the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") review of the merger is set to expire on June 1.4 Moreover, 16 of 19 state regulatory commissions have already concluded their review of transactions associated with the merger. Because the Commission's expeditious review is critical to helping New T-Mobile deliver the enormous public-interest benefits that will flow from the proposed merger as quickly as possible, Joint Applicants urge the Commission to issue

¹ Amended Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling, dated October 4, 2018 ("Amended Scoping Memo"), at 4.

² Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Denying In Part And Granting In Part The Motion Of The Public Advocates Office To Amend And Supplement Testimony And For Additional Hearings; And Revising The Schedule Of This Proceeding, dated February 26, 2019 ("ALJ Ruling"), at 4.

³ *Id*. at 3.

⁴ See Public Notice, Federal Commc'ns Comm. (March 7, 2019), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-19-161A1.pdf (noting that, absent new developments, the "180-day clock will resume on April 4, 2019, at day 122"); T-Mobile and Sprint, WT Docket 18-197, Federal Commc'ns Comm., https://www.fcc.gov/transaction/t-mobile-sprint (visited March 7, 2019).

a final decision on a timeline that coincides with—rather than post-dates—the conclusion of the FCC's review.

The Commission's timely review will help ensure that Californians benefit from the broad range of benefits documented in the extensive evidence we have submitted to the Commission. Conversely, any action that could delay consummation of the merger would slow the build-out of New T-Mobile's robust, 5G network in California, thereby delaying New T-Mobile's ability to provide all consumers in California the benefits of that network—such as increased speeds and expanded coverage, lower prices, and a bona fide wireless alternative to traditional in-home broadband service. Moreover, delay would harm the Joint Applicants' respective businesses—for example, complicating their ability to move forward with long-term planning, either jointly or separately, as long as regulatory review remains pending.

In light of these considerations, the Joint Applicants respectfully urge the ALJ and the Commission to continue to take all appropriate steps to ensure issuance of a final decision and the conclusion of the Commission's review expeditiously, and as early within the second quarter of 2019 as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dave Conn
Susan Lipper
T-Mobile USA, Inc.
12920 SE 38th St.
Bellevue, WA 98006

Telephone: 425.378.4000 Facsimile: 425.378.4040

Email: dave.conn@t-mobile.com Email: susan.lipper@t-mobile.com

Suzanne Toller Davis Wright Tremaine LLP 505 Montgomery, Suite 800 San Francisco, CA 9411 Telephone: 415.276.6500

Email: suzannetoller@dwt.com

Leon M. Bloomfield Law Offices of Leon M. Bloomfield 1901 Harrison St., Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: 510.625.1164 Email: lmb@wblaw.net

Attorneys for T-Mobile USA, Inc.

<u>/s/</u>

Stephen H. Kukta Sprint Communications Company L.P 900 7th Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20001 Telephone: 415.572.8358

Email: stephen.h.kukta@sprint.com

Earl Nicholas Selby Law Offices of Earl Nicholas Selby 530 Lytton Avenue, 2nd Floor Palo Alto, CA 94301 Telephone: 650.323.0990

Facsimile: 650.325.9041 Email: selbytelecom@gmail.com

Attorneys for Sprint Communications Company L.P. (U-5112-C), Sprint Spectrum L.P. (U-3062-C), and Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. (U-4327-C)

cc: CPUC Service List A.18-07-011/A.18-07-012