

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF  
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**FILED**

Application 24-10-0069/15/25  
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A2410006

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Verizon Communications Inc., Frontier Communications Parent, Inc., Frontier California Inc., Citizens Telecommunications Company of California Inc., Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc., Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc., and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. for Approval of the Transfer of Control of Frontier California Inc. (U1002C), Citizens Telecommunications Company of California (U1024C), Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc. (U1026C), Frontier Communications Online and Long Distance Inc. (U7167C), and Frontier Communications of America, Inc. (U5429C), to Verizon Communications Inc. Pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 854.

**CENTER FOR ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY'S NOTICE OF EX PARTE  
COMMUNICATION**

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September 15, 2025

Pursuant Rule 8.4 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT) hereby files this notice of an ex parte meeting with Commissioner Darcie Houck and Commissioner John Reynolds and their advisors, which occurred on September 11, 2025 at 11am. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the public harms of the proposed Verizon-Frontier merger, pending before the Commission in A.24-10-006, particularly those related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and to respond to Joint Applicants' claims of urgency.

From Commissioner Houck's office, the participants were Commissioner Darcie Houck and Caleb Jones, Advisor to Commissioner Houck. From Commissioner Reynolds' office, the participants were Commissioner John Reynolds; Carolyn Chen, Advisor to Commissioner Reynolds; and Andrew Klutey, Advisor to Commissioner Reynolds. The participants from CforAT were Lisa Stringer, Executive Director; Melissa W. Kasnitz, Legal Director; Paul Goodman, Legal Counsel; and Rachel Sweetnam, Staff Attorney.

The meeting was scheduled at CforAT's request and noticed to the service list on September 5, 2025. The meeting was held virtually on WebEx and lasted approximately 42 minutes. The communication was strictly oral; no handouts or writings were shared.

First, CforAT shared general concerns regarding the Joint Applicants' efforts to create a sense of urgency for resolving the Application, notwithstanding their own actions and delays which have extended the timeline far beyond previously set schedules. CforAT explained that constricting the schedule places substantial pressure on CforAT's ability to effectively address all pending legal and factual issues, as well as on the Commission's own ability to give full consideration to the issues raised with the Application. CforAT requested that the Commission allow intervenors the time and opportunity to fully present our case in briefing and

respond to settlement motions and that the Commission take the appropriate time to evaluate the record in full and deliberate on the outcome that is in the public interest for California.

CforAT also discussed the DEI issues implicated by the proposed merger and expressed our disappointment with Verizon's acquiescence to unreasonable and regressive demands from the FCC, despite Verizon's well-established ability to oppose regulatory action with which it disagrees. CforAT expressed our frustration with behavior of Verizon's attorneys towards female counsel in meetings and during the evidentiary hearings, signaling a corporate culture that lacks an understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion and that requires accountability.

CforAT presented potential mitigation measures for harms to diversity should the Commission approve the Application. While CforAT described carefully crafting potential mitigation measures to reconcile Verizon's position and adequate efforts to ensure diversity, CforAT emphasized that these measures would likely only slow but not fully prevent resulting harms to diversity. CforAT also addressed the diversity-related language in CETF's settlement with Verizon and explained that this settlement does not include meaningful commitments for diversity.

CforAT shared that our focus on diversity stems from our representation of people with disabilities and medical needs, identities that intersect and overlap with low-income communities and other diverse communities. CforAT described our work to represent the interests of our constituency and to prevent the perpetuation of historic lack of access and discrimination. In evaluating the public interest impacts of the Application, CforAT stated that we are considering and addressing all disputed issues of fact, law, and policy in addition to DEI as we work to fully present our case in briefing and to respond to the settlement motions.

Respectfully submitted,  
September 15, 2025

/s/ Melissa Kasnitz  
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