

As someone who grew up around the time that the Carterfone rules took affect on landline phones, I find it difficult to conceive of a world where you could only use a handset provided by the phone company to talk on the phone network. Since these rules have went into affect, a whole telephone handset industry blossomed and grew. Now instead of wired phones that weigh several pounds, we have handsets in all shapes, sizes, and colors. We also have cordless phones as well. None of this would have happened without the Carterfone rules.

Meanwhile, when it comes to mobile phone service in the US, the handsets are treated nearly the same way as they used to be on the landline telephone network pre-Carterfone rules. Just try and buy an arbitrary mobile phone handset and use it on the provider of your choice. Unless that handset came from the provider you chose, you likely won't be able to use it.

Many of the rules that apply to landlines also apply to mobile phone service in the US. I don't see a single reason why the Carterphone rules should not apply to wireless service in the US. It will be an overall net-positive for the consumer. It should, ultimately, be a net-positive for the carriers themselves. They can get out of the business of subsidizing handsets, thus increase their profit margins.

I would also like to see the service providers be forbidden from restricting the content that traverses their networks, be it voice or data. History with the landline phone network suggests this along with freedom of device attachment will be the genesis for the next big telecommunications breakthrough. Think modems in the 1980s and where that brought us.

In summary, I am in favor of changing the rules as described in RM-11361. Thank you for your attention to these comments.