

To whom this may concern,

My name is Yossarain Norman. I am a blogger for the site BoyMeetsPhone.com and most importantly a wireless consumer. I am writing this to implore you not to allow AT&T to acquire T-Mobile USA. I have dealt with all 4 of the major carriers in some fashion in my life. Having as many carrier options as we do in the USA is great for consumers and the industry. The plethora of options gives consumers the ability to decide what company fits their price and coverage needs while still allowing them to get their hands on innovative services and products.

If AT&T is allowed to acquire T-Mobile it will leave them in control of the GSM market in the US. This will not only affect the post paid customers on T-Mobile but those who do not like contracts or are not in an economic position to sign one and therefore are on either T-Mobile's prepaid service or a MVNO that is running on their network. It is well-known that consumers use their phone for not only voice communication but data connection too. For some users this is their only way to connect to internet. And while AT&T is claiming that current customers on contract will have their contracts honored until they can force them to change to their more expensive plans with fewer features and smaller data packages, prepaid customers will not get the same treatment. Despite the growth of the prepaid market, users are unprotected in any deal because they have no contract. Currently, T-Mobile's prepaid, and virtual network running off of their network have the best rate for GSM prepaid service. Also they have the best GSM prepaid data rates. T-Mobile's prepaid offers unlimited talk, text and 2GB of data for \$70. Simple Mobile ,prepaid MVNO running on the T-Mobile's network, has a \$60 unlimited everything rate plan. AT&T however charges \$75 for unlimited talk, text, and only 200MB of data. None of the MVNO running on AT&T offers unlimited minutes, text or anything over 150MB of data. This deal will hurt people who have already been hurt by economic hardships or are trying to avoid it.

I would also like to point out the history of AT&T. Since its inception, main goal of the company has been to have total control over all forms of telecommunication. They felt they deserved this because the company was started(as Bell Telephone Company) by Gardiner Greene Hubbard; the father-in-law of Alexander Graham Bell who created the telephone. When the company was started they said their goal was "One Policy, One System, Universal Service." To do this they spent year purchasing every smaller company they could. They spent over 90 years controlling the telephone industry,keeping consumers for using accessories like the answering machine and Hush-A-Phone. This is no different from what AT&T currently does in the cell phone industry. They lock their Android phone so than you can not install applications not on the Android Market onto them. This mean if you work for a company using AT&T Android devices you can not created an application meant for internal use within the company. So if you want to be able to do this and stay on a GSM network you need to be on T-Mobile. If AT&T acquires T-Mobile this option will disappear.

The last thing I would like to convey is the important of T-Mobile to the mobile industry and

consumers. T-Mobile USA was the only US company willing to carry the Sidekick. To some people this may not seem like a huge milestone. However, the Sidekick gave deaf consumers a device that allowed them to easily communicate with others at a time when the wireless communication industry had largely made them feel like outsiders. And it was due to the Sidekick that T-Mobile had the chance to introduce the world to the Android OS. This is arguably one of the biggest gifts to the wireless industry the company has given. If the OS had not been introduced in the way it was and gained the popularity that it has thanks to that, consumers would not have the plethora of different devices with the OS. Due to the ability to make devices running the Android OS that are inexpensive, people at both sides of the economic scale have access to its features like full web access and no cost GPS navigation. Though AT&T would like you to believe that T-Mobile is not important to the industry, if it were not for innovative products like these that T-Mobile introduced, many people would not have the access to services that they do now.

Allowing AT&T to purchase T-Mobile would do irreparable damage to the mobile industry. Despite AT&T assertions that no one would miss T-Mobile, I can tell you from experience that they will. I myself have used many different wireless service providers. I have been on Verizon, AT&T, Cingular, Sprint, Nextel, Virgin Mobile, and Boost Mobile. I have always found myself returning to T-Mobile. Their service in my area is great, their prices are within my budget, they offer some great devices, and the extra services like text and internet do not cost me nearly as much as they would on AT&T. Though things like service vary depending on your area, price doesn't. Some will tell you that they want the acquisition to go through purely for their own benefit. I however look at the larger ramifications of it. Even with the promise of LTE coverage the fact of the matter is AT&T is not good for the economic well-being of all GSM phone users. And though AT&T says another company can fit the low-cost need it is unfair for consumers to have to change carriers strictly for AT&T's own selfish goals. Customers could be forced to settle for a network that may not work everywhere so traveling will mean going without service and you would have to switch carriers if you ever want to move. In the long-term, this deal is not in the best interest of consumers. I feel that if allowed to happen, it will hurt the growth of the industry and the ability for all people to have access to services. I implore you, do not allow AT&T to control the GSM wireless service industry. It will hurt consumers and the industry in the long run in ways that it may never be able to recover from.