

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

June 20, 2011

Re: Applications of AT&T, Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Ms. Dortch,

ColorOfChange.org is pleased to submit these comments regarding the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. ColorOfChange.org is the nation's largest African-American online political organization, with more than 750,000 members nationwide.

The Federal Communications Commission can and must play an important role in protecting an open Internet and expanding broadband access. Last year we submitted the comments of more than 50,000 ColorOfChange.org members who called on the Federal Communications Commission to implement strong network neutrality protections. Protecting net neutrality and expanding broadband access are major priorities for our members, and we believe the proposed merger poses a serious threat to these goals.

49,886 ColorOfChange.org members have submitted their comments, attached to this submission, calling on the FCC to deny the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. Here is the statement they signed:

Dear Commissioner Genachowski et al.,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to AT&T's proposed takeover of T-Mobile. This merger would be bad for America, and would be especially harmful for Black and other historically marginalized communities. The deal would likely destroy jobs, raise the price of cellular service, and threaten net neutrality for wireless high-speed Internet.

Removing the fourth-largest, and least expensive, carrier from the mobile phone market would eliminate critical competitive pressure that keeps the cost of access to mobile telephone and broadband service down. Decreased competition will also mean less incentive for cellular providers to invest in improving their services and developing new technologies. The decreased investment in network infrastructure resulting from this merger would likely hinder progress towards the goal of expanding access to high-speed Internet and closing the digital divide.

Finally, I'm deeply concerned about the impact this merger would have on net neutrality. AT&T's takeover of T-Mobile would mean that the top two remaining carriers, AT&T and Verizon, would collectively control nearly 80% of the wireless market. AT&T and Verizon are two of net neutrality's biggest and most powerful opponents. Given the FCC's failure to adequately protect mobile broadband in its net neutrality rulemaking last December, allowing these

companies to control so much of the market puts the open wireless Internet in serious danger, opening consumers to restrictions on the ideas, products and services they can access. This would have a disproportionate impact on Black and Latino Americans, who use mobile phones to connect to the Internet more than other groups.

I urge you to deny AT&T's request to purchase T-Mobile.

All 49,886 members signed the above statement, and their signatures are attached. In addition, many submitted personalized comments (also attached).

Thank you for your time and attention on this important matter. I would be happy to answer any questions from you or your staff. I can be reached via email at rashad@colorofchange.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Rashad Robinson
Executive Director, ColorOfChange.org