

TMUS/S: As Mississippi Goes, So Goes Mississippi

By [Blair Levin](#) | October 11, 2019

Earlier this week, Mississippi dropped out of the litigation against the proposed TMUS/S deal. Fox Business News reporter Charles Gasparino tweeted “@TMobile @sprint lawyers say more state AGs will join @MississippiAGO and drop from suit to block merger.” Are those lawyers right?[fnote]We can’t help but note that Mr. Gasparino’s business model apparently is to tweet out whatever the T-Mobile lawyers tell him. We respect that as a business model that might work for him (and he does look terrific on television) but if we followed that business model, we would have reported last December that the deal was about to wrap up at the FCC and DOJ with no further material conditions and with no risk of a state lawsuit and Mr. Legere would have said nice things about us on his February investor call. And we would have been wildly wrong. To be clear, we are not accusing any members of the T-Mobile team, who we deeply respect and who have done a great job, of misleading anyone. We simply wish to reiterate what we said when Mr. Legere criticized us in February for suggesting the deal had material obstacles to closing, that he and his team have their job— create an environment in which deal approval seems inevitable— and we have ours, which is to analyze public information to determine the probabilities of various outcomes. ([LINK](#))[/fnote] Maybe, but we doubt it, for four related reasons.

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