

I have many concerns over the proposed Time Warner/AOL merger. These are very large companies that have shown reluctance in the past to share the market with competitors.

As a former subscriber to AOL, I can attest to their extremely poor customer service and slow internet connect speeds. And they have bought out competing companies such as Netscape, and ICQ. The choices for consumers get smaller as AOL continues to grow.

Time Warner has repeatedly demonstrated a reluctance to adding certain stations owned by competing corporations to their cable networks. For example, the Rochester Time Warner has still not added the local UPN affiliate to the cable lineup despite that station being in existence for well over a year now. It seems ridiculous for the rates I currently pay that I cannot enjoy UPN programming on my cable service. UPN and TBN are competitors, and therefore since TBN is affiliated with Time Warner, UPN is not carried (or carried only after protest) on Time Warner cable systems. This is unacceptable for a public franchise such as cable.

I am concerned that the merger of these two companies will result in an arrogant communications monopoly that will injure competition and hurt the consumer.