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To: <RHOLBERG@fcc.gov>, <LSENECAL@fcc.gov>
Date: 4/25/02 6:23PM
Subject: Comments on proposed Comcast-AT&T merger

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August 25, 2002

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Dear Mr. Holbert and Ms. Senecal:

On Tuesday, April 23, 2002, the Senate listened to the CEOs of Comcast Corp. and AT&T Corp. explain why their merger would be a good thing.

I think it would be a horrible thing, resulting in higher rates and fewer choices for consumers.

I moved to the Philadelphia area, home of Comcast, from Michigan slightly less than two years ago. I am a rabid Detroit Red Wings hockey fan. My fiancé is a huge Philadelphia Flyers fan (despite this, I still moved and am still engaged). In evaluating our television options with an eye toward maximum hockey games, we decided Direct TV with the *Sports Pack,* which gave us all the regional sports networks around the country, would be the best option for watching both Red Wings and Flyers games.

Imagine our surprise the first time we tried to watch a Flyers game and found ourselves in the New York region * meaning we could watch New York Rangers games, but not Flyers games, even though we live in the Philadelphia area.

After several hour-plus phone calls to Direct TV representatives, we discovered that Comcast*s monopoly on the Philadelphia area cable market was to blame. Philadelphia is, I understand, the only area of the country without a regional sports network. This is because Comcast refuses to allow Direct TV to broadcast any Philadelphia professional sports games. So viewers are forced to subscribe to Comcast or do without.

This is outrageous on a number of levels.

1. Comcast*s monthly cable rates are higher than Direct TV*s.
2. Comcast doesn*t offer a regional sports package in addition to its cable service, so there is no way we would be able to watch Red Wings games, other than those that happened to be on ESPN or ESPN2.
3. Comcast is completely monopolizing Flyers games, forcing consumers to subscribe to their service or do without.
4. Comcast owns the Flyers, which reeks of conflict of interest.

I shudder to think what will happen if Comcast and AT&T merge their cable empires. Will Philadelphians be given any choice in their cable television service? I think not and strongly urge you to use your power to prevent this merger.

Sincerely,
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