

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I endorse the merger of Echo Star and Direct TV. I live outside of Missoula, Montana. We do access cable, but we paid about \$1.17 per station compared to the \$.77 per station Missoula paid for basic cable. Our cable was out constantly. We would call afternoon/evening with the problem and would not receive any solution till the next day. We recently changed to satellite tv. We are happy with the conversion, but are missing the local stations .. We need the local news and weather. We were not given any viable alternative. The cable company in our area did not seem to care for anything except profits. That was of course until we canceled our cable. Then, even the regional vice president called questioning why after over 11 years we were cancelling our service. Please allow the local networks to be broadcast over satellite systems. Sometimes in rural situations, there is no alternative. We cannot receive any television signal (even local stations) without either cable or satellite. We are about 1 1/2 miles from the end of the cable system near us. Please let us have our locals!

Sincerely,

Karen Abell
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Bonner, MT 59823