

I am writing in support of satellite television as a viable and desirable alternative to the cable monopoly that has dictated choice for the past two decades.

Living in a rural part of Connecticut where my house backs up to a stone-filled hillside, blocking virtually all access to the West/Northwest, I can truly assure you that without Dish TV having been in my home since 1997, I would not be enjoying the level of communication and service that each and every U.S. citizen should have the opportunity to enjoy. Because of the blocked range of my property, I am unable to use a rooftop antenna to receive signals from the CBS and Fox networks, whose towers are located West/Northwest of Hartford. I am able to pull in some signal from Providence, R.I., but I do not consider that a close match to my interests, being a resident of Andover, CT.

I think it is a travesty that the local CBS affiliate has denied my request to receive network access through the Dish Network. As a result, I am unable to enjoy any CBS programming. Sad, that an American does not have choice in what is supposed to be a free market. Sad, in that I cannot pull in a signal with a roof-top antenna, and I do not like cable television, and do not feel I should be forced to either accept cable, or not receive CBS or Fox signals. I am on my second request to receive Fox programming, the first having failed because of lost communication, but at least the local affiliate, Channel 61, has said it would not voice objection to my getting it through Dish.

But, by what right does WFSB-TV, Channel 3, in Hartford have to say that I cannot get any CBS programming, unless it is theirs? How is that free market, when they are offering me only a choice of getting it through cable TV, or paying again (I did so in 1997) to have the signal area checked to prove I cannot receive a signal. I have already paid to have a roof-top antenna installed, then returned, because I could not get the signal. NBC and ABC have n