

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I oppose the mega merger of the 2 remaining satellite providers. I wonder who 'benefits' from this merger. If I want satellite service, I will have NO options for choosing a provider. No competition doesn't appeal to me. The

Internet service provided by Echostar now is slow, unreliable and expensive. I live in far Western Md and my new local feed will be Salisbury, which is 230 miles east of me. I would rather have Washington, DC AND Pittsburg, PA. which is 75 miles north. I live in a fringe area and can not get cable.

I can get 2 of the 3 Pittsburg stations with an antenna. I have Dish Network now and my neighbor has Direct TV. The pricing and selections are different and I can switch anytime. With one provider, I will be stuck with the programming and pricing they dictate. The argument that they provide duplicate services is hollow. Ford, GM and Chrysler all provide the market with a choice. I can choose the manufacturer that suits my needs. Having only one option is not good. Someone will have to show me how this will benefit 'ME' before I will support another mega-merger! I helped start the first ISP in Garrett County, Md, back in the early 1990's. There are now 3 or 4 local providers. Sure, it would be nice if we were the only game around, we could charge what we wanted and basically provide the services that we wanted. With competition, we have to keep prices low and come up with innovative new ideas to attract and keep customers. Good for the consumer! Consumers need and want OPTIONS!!!

Sincerely,

william bass
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