

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

We're sure you've seen the following letter before and it states our case better than we can ourselves. We just want to make sure you realize that because we live in a rural area, we do not have access to cable tv or decent internet service. We can't even get 'local' tv stations clearly, the nearest ones are over 100 miles away. We subscribe to Dish Network in order to see the tv. We can usually see one of the three major networks well enough to watch the news, otherwise our stations come from Dallas. Don't even get us started on internet! Because of where we live, we depend on the internet for information, correspondence, and entertainment. We have such a slow connection the computer often 'thinks' we're not even connected! It is our understanding that this merger would make our local stations available by satellite and make satellite internet service affordable. Please support this merger! Thanks

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Keitha and Michael Brannick
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London, AR 72847