

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Hello:

I am writing to urge your support of the Echostar/DirectTV merger.

Two years ago, I became a Dish Network subscriber, because I was tired of paying twice as much for cable TV. I have been very pleased with my service; however, I would also like to see Dish Network be able to expand its product offerings.

For example, I have to use Comcast Cable for my Internet access. I would prefer to use Dish, but they are not in a position to offer affordable Internet access via satellite. The merger with DirectTV would enable them to do that.

Also, Dish Network can carry only a limited number of channels in high definition TV because of the limitations of their current bandwidth. The merger would allow them to free up the bandwidth taken up by duplicate channels on each service and they would be able to offer not only HDTV, but also interactivity. With the future of television heading toward HDTV, the satellite companies must be able to carry it. Neither company alone will be able to do that.

For me, there are a million reasons why this merger is a very positive thing. I believe CEO Charlie Ergen when he guarantees a one-rate plan for all subscribers and that they won't take advantage of rural America, like the cable companies do.

I know that Congress is worried about decreased competition in the satellite industry. But I don't think that's the real issue. The real competition isn't between the satellite providers; it's between all the satellite and the cable TV industry. The smaller satellite companies simply cannot compete with the cable behemoths. Merging these two companies will finally create a viable alternative to cable, one that may be advantageous to cable subscribers as well. The merged companies will become more competitive to cable all over the country, not just in the few cities where the satellite companies provide local channels. By being able to offer services that are equal to the cable companies all over the country, the cable companies may be forced to lower its prices to their subscribers, since subscribers will have more than just one viable choice.

So the merger just isn't good for satellite subscribers; it'll be good for everyone. So please support the merger. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ted Cains
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