

I'd like to add my voice to those who support the proposed merger between Echostar and DirectTV. As someone who lives in a fairly remote mountain area, digital satellite is the only feasible option for my family, as over the air signals don't reach our home and the majority of the C Band spectrum cannot be 'viewed' from our property. I understand the concerns of those who fear that the merger's resulting lack of competition could result in higher prices. But it's my understanding that all principals involved have agreed to adhere to a national pricing policy. Personally, I'm much more concerned that, should we reach a point where neither Echostar or DirectTV can remain viable as separate entities, I could lose the ability to receive television programming altogether. I'm also hopeful that once the duplication of services which currently clogs the limited satellite space is eliminated, I may be able to receive high speed internet service at an affordable price.

All in all, the benefits of a merger far outweigh any concerns I might have over being served by a single satellite provider, in my opinion. I believe that a 'yes' vote on the proposal would be the best way to serve your rural constituents on this matter.