

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing you today to give my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DirecTV. As a former cable subscriber, now a satellite TV subscriber, I can say with 100% honesty, that merging these two companies will benefit the American consumer. How you ask? Let me give you an example.

In Gilroy, California (zip code 95020), I was paying over \$60.00 per month for cable TV. I got 40 channels, and that was it. I didn't get any pay-per-view channels. I didn't get any digital music channels. And I didn't get any access to the internet. The cable lines to my home were so old, that the cable reception was poor. My parents still live in Gilroy, and complain of the same poor service. The local cable company has no competition from other cable companies except for satellite cable. The only thing that keeps my parents from going with satellite cable, is the fact that they plan to move to Palm Springs which has a better service, and cheaper rates. Otherwise, they would have switched to Satellite TV months ago.

The local cable company in Frederick Maryland, where I live now, is terrible. The customer service is lousy, and the price is more for the same quality and level of service I have now with Dish Network. The only thing I lack is the local news for Frederick. I pay \$59.00 per month for 150 basic TV and digital music channels. I also have access to over 20 pay-per-view movies, 3 of which are High Definition TV channels. I also have access to D.C. local stations as well as the Los Angeles local channels. I get two History channels, FX channel, Fox Sports, two Discovery channels, and 5 University educational channels, all for the same price as the Adelphia cable service.

I even signed up for Broadband internet through StarBand, which at the time was a partner of Dish Network. The internet service is outstanding. I get twice the bandwidth I would have received through Adelphia for the same price.

So how can this be a bad thing? I get better service; better value; and I get more channels. If this merger is allowed to happen, I will then also have access to NFL Sunday ticket, which is currently only allowed through DirecTV. My cable options just get better.

As you can tell, I am entirely in favor of this merger, and hope you don't listen to the ramblings of big cable companies. This merger will be good for competition.

Sincerely,

Clinton Hart
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