

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a subscriber to DishNetwork in Moberly, MO. Currently, if someone in my town wants to get local channels (broadcast from the Columbia-Jefferson City area), the only reliable method is to purchase cable from the single provider in the town. When I was a cable subscriber, I had to deal with poor service and rising prices. Because there was no competition, especially where local channels were concerned, the company (then TCI) felt no need to deal with my concerns. Because of a move, I switched to a satellite system, and when I moved back into town, I did not switch back. Every time I have had a problem, whether caused by weather, system problems, or even my own misunderstanding, the service from DishNetwork has been wonderful. The one thing they have been unable to deal with has been my request to get local channels. The Columbia stations (which I can barely receive without a huge antenna atop my house) will not grant waivers because they will not be able to get any advertising revenue from my watching a NY or LA feed. This is understandable, but if Echostar and DIRECTV merge, as I understand it, they would be able to free up bandwidth and could then broadcast those very Columbia channels to my house.

I understand that there are worries about monopoly where this merger is concerned. Looking at the television market as a whole, DIRECTV/DishNetwork would still only have a portion of the overall market. There are still dozens, if not hundreds, of cable companies, and many people will continue to choose them instead. Likewise, there are a number of people that prefer only to view those stations they can receive for free.

I hope you will take this letter into serious consideration and help approve this merger.

Sincerely,

Regina Cross
704 Garfield
Moberly, MO 65270