

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I went out to buy a car today. I found one that I liked and was about to buy it when a salesman from another lot came by and offered me a free car. I decided to take a look. But it wasn't what I wanted at all - in fact the car was an ugly piece of junk. So I started to go buy the car I wanted instead. Just then, a government official stepped up and said that I had to accept the free car, I could not pay for what I wanted if I could get a car for free!!

Ok, that didn't actually happen, but how is that different from wanting to pay for my local channels with a satellite provider as opposed to getting the channels free with an antenna? I prefer the quality of a satellite picture to the grainy quality I can obtain with an antenna. Get cable, you say? With cable, the local channels still aren't free - I have to pay for the cable. Both cable companies and satellite companies obtain signals from local stations for free and then sell them to consumers as part of a package, so why shouldn't local channels be available to both cable and satellite viewers?

I'm sure you've heard these arguments before, but I wanted to let you know that we in Southeast Missouri are heartily in favor of any merger which would allow us access to local tv stations via our satellite providers. Please continue to consider and work on this problem.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith Davis
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Poplar Bluff, MO 63901