

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please take the time to read throughly and notice additional comments @ the end.

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV . The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Additional Comments:

On the subject of local broadcasts, I am just a citizen. That being said I travel this country from coast to coast with my job. I would like to stay informed on local subjects throughout the country. Since the 'Satellite Viewer Improvement Act of 1999' was invoked my satellite viewing has degraded significantly. Before The Act I was receiving NY and LA stations and had the ability to stay informed no matter which coast I was travelling to. If I wish to stay informed I must now shuffle through mounds of other cities newspapers (creating more waste for my local landfill). This is ironic since I can buy any city's newspaper in my town but can't watch the news from anywhere else. The true irony however arises when discovering that where I live is on the edge of the DFW DMA. Mind you I am on average 80 miles from the DFW Transmitters, and only 26 miles from Waco, TX. More disheartening still I glean no benefits from supposedly living in DFW, my phone service is long distance to DFW, when a local station shows the weather radar my location is firmly planted under a logo for the station, and I am not able to receive DFW weather band warnings on my radio.

In summation I agree with the merger but disagree with the limitation of available information.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Bob Dixon
117 Lake View Dr.
Whitney, TX 76692