

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I urge you to support the EchoStar-DirectTV merger.

Everyone who is speaking against the merger keeps saying it will be bad for the consumer. They talk about the lack of choice for rural consumers. What about the vast majority of Americans that do have access to cable? Is there any market served by cable television that has more than one choice? I've never lived anywhere that I had a choice of cable companies. No one raised their fist and cried out for the consumer then.

I was an unhappy cable television subscriber for many years. Poor customer service and spiraling prices were standards for the cable industry UNTIL satellite television truly began to compete with them. Now cable operators are trying to have good customer service and actually competing for customers. Now consumers are benefiting.

The consumer will be hurt by blocking this merger. Even for the many homes that will never even consider satellite television, they will benefit by the even playing field this merger will bring. There truly will be an alternative to the mature cable television industry.

And let's forget about television. What about internet access? Areas that aren't served by cable, certainly won't be served by DSL, and therefore will have no high-speed internet access without the band-width efficiencies this merger will provide.

Sincerely,

Ronald Dolsen
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