

I have been a subscriber of DBS service since 12/1996. First on DirectTV and later on Dish Network (Echostar). Prior to that time I was a subscriber to the local cable system, which started as Cox Cable, then Jones Intercable and finally ended up as AT&T Broadband.

I would like to state that I feel that the pending merger of DirectTV and Echostar should be approved ASAP. AT&T has decided that our cable system won't be upgraded anytime in the foreseeable future (they've been saying for three years we'll have cable modem service in 6 months, now they won't say any date at all) so we're limited to the number of channels we can receive, we have no broadband access and we have no High Definition television programming available. The entire village I live in also has no DSL service available due to SBC/Ameritech and the Illinois Commerce Commission having a dispute on how to provide CLEC's access to their network.

DirectTV and Dish have shown that they care about providing enhanced services that the local incumbents aren't providing and don't appear to have any plans to offer. These new services take bandwidth to provide and much of the bandwidth that these two companies have available is being wasted due to duplicate programming. Since I want to see the expansion of these services, and the merger is the best way to make this happen, I'm fully in support of this merger.