

I would just like to voice my support for the proposed DirectTV/Echostar DBS merger. My reason for this support is that having two separate DBS providers is a waste of valuable bandwidth due to the duplication of programming. If one provider could use all 32 transponders at the 101, 110 and 119 slots that's one heck of a lot of bandwidth that could be used for programming, including HDTV.

I know a number of comments have been made about no competition for rural customers if there's only one DBS provider. What about the majority of apartment dwellers that have no option except for cable and in most cases only one cable company is available. The rural folks have the option of DBS or going to C band for their programming.