

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a current Echostar customer who is deeply troubled by the recent (7/17/02) programming change effected by Dish network. I am currently living and working in the Crane-Burns Oregon area. I subscribed to the Portland, Or local programming service simply because you can't get it here, there is no cable and you are 300+ miles from Portland. The reason for wanting the Portland channels is because they report on the entire state, both news and weather. Dish network has decided to 'provide better service to Oregon' (their words) by ceasing to transmit Portland programming to anywhere outside of the Willamette corridor and only airing it on a 'spot beam' to the local area. As you probably know, Portland television can usually be seen using small antennae in the Metro area, so why broadcast the satellite signal to the area which doesn't need it and cut out the rest of the state in entirety? I seriously wonder how well this company will serve the public once they have a monopoly and no longer have to worry about competition. They have already proven to me that they don't care about their customers in rural Oregon .. I suggest you have your staff contact Dish network customers in Central and Eastern Oregon and see what they think, I haven't talked to any who are happy right now. Especially since they cut off our service at a time when the Central and Eastern parts of the state were burning up from forest fires !

Sincerely,

Don Rairigh
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Aumsville, OR 97325