

I am writing in support of the EchoStar-DIRECTV merger. I have been a very satisfied DISH Network customer for 2.5 years, but have no other connection to either of the companies.

I support the merger for several reasons:

(1) Better satellite bandwidth utilization. As an engineer, it pains me to know that EchoStar and DIRECTV currently transmit nearly identical programming from their orbital fleets. This is a wasteful use of expensive and scarce CONUS satellite bandwidth. I am excited by the potential new programming and services that will be possible once duplication is eliminated by the merger.

(2) Better competition in multi-channel marketplace. To me it seems clear that this merger will NOT be anti-competitive. My principal decision was between cable and satellite not between DISH Network and DIRECTV. The merger will put my service of choice in a better position to compete with cable.

(3) Better rural service. I grew up on a farm in central Kansas. My parents still work the farm and their only multi-channel option that includes local stations is a poor-quality wireless cable system. By eliminating wasteful duplication of satellite programming the merger will allow EchoStar to offer locals to central KS giving my parents another true multi-channel option.