

As I suffered many years of constantly decreasing quality and constantly increasing prices when I was a cable subscriber, I am totally in favor of the EchoStar-DIRECTV Merger PROVIDED I am NOT forced to subscribe to local network channels after the merger is complete.

As I never cared for the local network channels when I was a cable subscriber, it is very unlikely that I would care for the local network channels now that I am an EchoStar subscriber.

I much prefer the DishNET EAST and WEST network channels (Los Angeles and New York) that I have been receiving since I first subscribed to EchoStar in 1997.

As I live 150 miles from the nearest network broadcaster (Spokane, WA), and 40 miles from the nearest independent broadcaster (Lewiston, ID), there is no compelling reason for me to be forced to subscribe to the local network channels.

The merger would provide me with one definite advantage that is not available to me at this time. According to the ECHOSTAR CEO, Charlie Ergen, the merger would allow EchoStar to provide Broadband internet service at a more affordable price.