

I urge you to support merger of EchoStar and Direct TV.

Because we live in a very rural section of Pennsylvania, the cable company Blue Ridge will not bring their service to our home, unless we are willing to pay several thousand dollars for the cable installation.

This clearly demonstrates the unwillingness of cable companies to ensure service unless it is highly profitable.

We are not alone in this situation, since many friends also share this problem.

Although we have satellite service with Dish Network our major channels of ABC, NBC and CBS are broadcast from New York.

While the programming is basically the same, the news broadcasts are not, and when situations such as the tornado of a couple of years ago strike we are not informed as we should be and would be if we were receiving our local networks that this merger would provide.

As you can see this merger would go a long way in providing us with some means of knowing when a situation requires us to take precautions.

After 9/11 I feel more than ever detached from the outside world, and this should not be when technology exists to prevent it.

Apparently the cable systems are not concerned with this lack of service but I would assume that you would be.

Also in regards to the internet connections I would also like to point out that this service only available by the phone company at this time is very slow only 28000 BPS and that the cable companies again do not see fit to provide this service to rural residents.

I sincerely hope that you will support this measure, to ensure all citizens would be afforded the opportunity to view their local networks and receive acceptable service for their inter-net.