

I would like to voice my support for the merger of DISH / DIRECTV provided two conditions are set forth. One, local TV should be provided in all markets as currently planned. Second, and most importantly, HDTV should be a driving force behind this proposed merger. The combined company needs to be required to meet (and I believe exceed) the current rollout pace of HDTV signals. Cable will likely never carry an HD signal at the current level of bandwidth they have (and even if they do, it will have to be a watered down version, not true HDTV). Congress has taken virtually every incentive away for local TV, particularly in the medium to small markets, to convert and carry HDTV. A merged DISH/DIRECTV is the only real hope left for the millions of us who have shelled out thousands of dollars into the economy to purchase a HDTV set with the hopes that quality signals soon would be there!

Thank you