

I have been a Dish Network customer for almost five years. I subscribed to the service because I was tired of the poor signal quality, rude customer service, and frequent price hikes that I was experiencing with my cable company. My only competitive choice was one of the DTH companies. I had a difficult time choosing between Dish and DirectTV because they offered similar services.

I typically oppose any measure that reduces the amount of competition. However, I believe the benefits of this merger greatly outweigh the risk of reduced competition. I believe these benefits to be as follows:

- 1) Eliminate transmission of duplicate programming to same geographic areas.
- 2) Allow more local-into-local services.
- 3) Provide high-speed broadband capabilities to the entire country.
- 4) Provide strong position for negotiations with broadcasters over access rights.

The main competitors to Dish Network and DirectTV are cable monopolies not each other. By allowing the proposed merger you will ensure strong competition in both rural and urban markets for years to come.