

As a current Dish Network satellite TV subscriber I would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. I am excited that the combination of these two satellite providers clearly provides numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies. By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Everyone I have spoken to about the monopolistic local cable provider (Adelphia) is dissatisfied with their pricing and service. After the merger, throughout the country, people will be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future. In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.