

I am writing to add my support to the proposed merger between Echostar and DirectTV.

I am a Dish Network subscriber and am absolutely frustrated at not being able to receive the networks by satellite. All four of the local National Network affiliates adamantly refuse to grant a waiver so that I can receive the Network transmissions via satellite.

I live 30 miles from the transmitter sites and according to their computer analysis I can receive an adequate picture with an outdoor antenna. I DON'T WANT AN OUTDOOR ANTENNA. They are an ugly abomination of 50+ years technology. Besides, an antenna would only give me an acceptable ANALOG signal. I have a HIGH DEFINITION TV, and when the soon to start broadcasting of the digital signal begins, it will be blocked by the terrain of east Tennessee.

The local cable company is presently upgrading their equipment, and soon plans to offer 'digital TV'. They are trying to hoodwink everybody. Upon close questioning they admitted to me that:

1. Only the premium channels, (HBO, Showtime, Pay per view, etc.) would be a true digital signal.
2. The Networks and local channels will still be the same analog signal as before.
3. They have NO plans at this time to carry HIGH DEFINITION signals.

I feel very much discriminated against. Consumers in many larger metropolitan areas can choose between terrestrial, cable or satellite to receive the local and network stations. I can't.

I would also like to have options on Broadband Internet access.

Please hurry up and approve this merger - everybody will be better off.