

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of opposition to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. Although the combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies, I am concerned that price competition between DirectTV and Dishnetwork will result in higher pricing (Dishnetwork may raise rates to match DirectTV).

I understand that as a result of this merger, they plan to further expand their coverage area across the country. Although this is a benefit to rural users, it is an added cost likely to be passed onto to current subscribers. This also gives the satellite service an unfair advantage over targeted local cable services, which have to provide public service channels. One size does not fit all, and service is likely to fall to the lowest common denominator.

In the interest of keeping cost down and maximizing competition, I urge you to oppose this merger.