

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

For years we who live in rural Virginia have been discriminated against by not being allowed to view local or network stations simply because we chose satellite instead of cable. I had my reasons for choosing satellite over cable (one being our local cable was not real reliable) but that choice should not have meant I would be discriminated against. Those 'powers that be' who decided what kind of signal we receive (thus determining whether we can receive local/network stations) need to come to my house. Our reception is totally dependent on 'mother nature'. There are days that there is no way we can see local or network tv and invariably it happens on a day when there is something special on tv. I hope Congress and the FCC will approve this merger between Echostar and Direct TV and end this long standing discrimination for those of us who chose satellite over cable (cable stations in our area are even bragging about the fact that we can't receive local/network tv (fair?)) I have retired and rely on the tv for most of my entertainment and it would be really nice if I and my husband (who is retiring this year) could have unobstructed view of the network/local stations as well as the satellite stations. PLEASE approve this merger

Sincerely,

Frances Hargus  
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