

I believe the merger of Echostar and Hughes would be extremely detrimental to consumers. I currently have Dish and have seen extremely poor customer service (as noted before by someone else) to the point of being arrogant. (even had a CSR snickering at my problem). Further, if Echostar were to merge with Hughes, competition would cease in the DSB market. Dish would control price, equipment, programming, etc.. Currently, the DSB providers are doing extremely well with competing with local cable service providers. That is if they have to compete as indicated by some folks who DO NOT have the option of cable vs. satellite. That is why I am a satellite customer...value for dollar spent. However, the satellite customer service fails miserably against good ol' home town hospitality with dealing with customers. DSB customer support is faceless and knows there is no way you can really complain to anyone about the service provided by them even with an employee i.d. number, as I have tried. This is of utmost concern to me as well as the monopolization of the market by DishNetwork. Why not have just one long distance phone service? Why not have just one internet service provider? Why? Capitalism and competition. Build a better mousetrap, as the saying goes. I do understand some folks assumption that the merger will mean they get their locals. With my recent inquiries with the FCC about enforcement of the SHVIA, I don't think the DSB providers are in any hurry to provide service to Nowhere, USA, and the FCC isn't structured (as yet) to cause enforcement of any mandated issues against DSB providers. DSB's are looking at the almighty dollar and how to effect the most people with the least effort. If you look at Dish's distant locals, which I believe is around 36 at present, they are the 36 top DMA's in the nation (per AC Nielsen which can be accessed online). So to me, that argument is moot. DSB's will get to locals when they are good and ready for a market and as long as it is the next one in order according to its ranking as a DMA. Not instantly overnight due to the success or failure of this merger. Dish already doesn't appreciate its customer base that held it as the #1 satellite provider for 2 years running because its ambition exceeds its purported mission. A self perpetuating customer base committed to annual contracts but little or no technical/customer support. So this company, DishNetwork, should assume DirectTV? Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask why?