

I strongly encourage a favorable review of the Echostar/DirectTV merger because it would provide dramatic improvement in communication in rural states. With national pricing guarantees and a local market for every state, broadband high-speed internet for every customer, no matter where they may live, these advantages would be dramatic for rural states like Montana.

Competition for pay television is definitely between cable and satellite. The fact that cable currently does NOT serve many rural areas is by CHOICE, not because they cannot serve rural areas. A large satellite company would wake up the "lazy giant" known as cable and will prompt them to improve services to rural areas, just as satellite has prompted cable to expand programming. Those who say that an Echostar/DirectTV merger would hurt rural areas are without a valid argument given the national pricing commitment that can be reinforced by regulation.

Please review the merger carefully and give it a full hearing. The rural states would benefit greatly by a merger.

Sincerely,

Charles Heringer