

Do any of you truly believe that cable companies operate in a free market? Cable companies have always monopolized local markets, leaving consumers with no option but to buy the only service provided in their area. This monopoly is most often encouraged by local government officials. Extensive research has been done in this area, do your homework and I'm sure you will see some ugly statistics. The bottom line from the cable companies is 'buy our service or go without.' This has resulted in continual price increases and very poor customer service. They have no competition. The satellite providers have provided the only competition and it has threatened the cable companies' profit margins. They can no longer sit back and stick it to us little guys. Service and pricing have gotten better as a direct result of the competition. This merger will only create a better environment for consumers. If cable companies would stop their unfair business practices I would switch to full time cable immediately. Without the competition from the satellite providers, you are encouraging a monopoly. I would hope that the money that the cable companies have paid their lobbyists does not blind you from the truth. The voter deserves to be heard on this issue, and I'm afraid that big money will crush our voice.