

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who IS COMPLETELY AGAINST the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will ALL BUT ELIMINATE A COMPETITIVE MARKET PLACE FOR MANY consumers like me in rural areas. AS IN THE PAST WITH THE MERGER OF PRIME-STAR AND DIRECT TV, I EXPECT THAT SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON HOW CONSUMERS CAN CHOOSE PROGRAMMING AND FULLY EXPECT THAT AS WITH THIS PREVIOUS MERGER, MY OVERALL COST FOR PROGRAMMING WILL INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY SIMPLY BECAUSE I HAVE NO OTHER OPTIONS. I believe that I represent a significant number of consumers/voters in rural areas where cable TV is not available.

Additionally, I do not believe that the addition of local TV channels on satellite based cable systems is in any way a valid motivation for this merger. Again, PLEASE CONSIDER THE CONSUMER WHO DOES NOT HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN SATELLITE AND A LOCAL COMMUNITY CABLE SYSTEM.

As far as Internet access, this is an additional market for these satellite companies. If they choose to offer this access then they (not the competitive market place) should bare the burden to bring this offering to market.

I thoroughly believe that there is NOT a benefit to consumers in this merger. Rather it is harmful to the competitive market and is solely an investment move on the parts of the involved companies that will paid for by the consumer.

PLEASE CONSIDER MY CONCERNS AND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE MOVE TO PREVENT THIS MERGER

Sincerely,

Joseph Zambanini
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Delaware, OH 43015