

I am writing to you today as a brand-new satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The merger would allow the new company to offer all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community.

This is particularly important to me, because our local cable company has a disappointing performance record and woefully inadequate customer service. This, combined with THREE price increases this year explains my status as a 'brand-new' dish subscriber and my interest in this issue. Even though we have switched to satellite TV, we would still like to remain connected with our community through easy access to our local channels.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.