

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of opposition to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will leave only 1 Direct Broadcast Satellite Provider. Having 2 Direct Broadcast Satellite providers competing for subscribers, has kept the cost of programming services and receiving equipment down for the consumer. The entrance of EchoStar dramatically affected the cost of receivers than when DirecTV was the lone Direct Broadcast Satellite Provider. This fact alone should prove that when there is only one provider, there is no incentive to keep costs down to the subscriber. Without a competitor, there will be no incentive to provide new channels at little to no cost as they have done up to now. We can expect higher monthly bills to cover the costs associated with this merger attempt.

Further, the fact that they plan on settling on one platform should be disturbing. This means that they are planning on making millions of receivers obsolete. These receivers will be totally useless. Aren't we supposed to be trying to conserve our natural resources? What benefit can come from making millions of receivers useless, and having them thrown in the trash?

In the interest of all Direct Broadcast Satellite Subscribers in every State in the United States of America, I strongly urge you to oppose this merger.