

As a Dish Network subscriber I urge you to support the proposed merger of Dish Network (Echostar) and Direct TV.

As a rural customer I have lousy cable (Charter Cable) reception and no high speed internet. Charter Cable has been saying high speed internet will be available soon for 3 years yet nothing is available and they have no timetable for it. Likewise Southwestern Bell has no timetable for DSL lines at the Lake of the Ozarks. These monoliths are effectively monopolies (I have no other choices) and they will continue to put their resources to work in more densely populated areas. This effectively leaves rural residents like me on the shoulder of the information highway.

The general misunderstanding of this merger is that it will lack competition. What competition? The cable companies will always provide substandard overpriced service to the rural areas and in the urban areas the boundaries of each cable company don't overlap and therefore don't provide competition. The truth of the merger is that this merger is good for both rural and urban customers as it provides competition to cable and telephone companies in both high speed internet services and programming.

Surely as regulators you can devise a plan to allow this merger while regulating pricing.

I urge you to support this merger.