

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 cable TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of dissent to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The combination of these two satellite providers will promote a monopoly to consumers like me, including less choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies due to monopolistic practices by the resulting company.

In light of the ongoing charges and anti-trust actions concerning Microsoft Corporation, I believe this merger will result in much of the same anti-competitive practices being executed in the cable TV and satellite business. By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, 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, but could possibly cause many cable TV companies to go out of business. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming which could just as easily be offered over existing cable TV lines. The merger is touted to bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers can happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike if the companies are required to compete for customers. This will give some people a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

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

Sincerely,

Don Lady
1315 Evangeline Drive
Picayune, MS 39466