I am very interested in receiving my local channels from my satellite
. I live in a rural area, surrounded by tall trees, and when asking for wa
ivers to be able to receive network programing on the satellite, only 1 of
4 stations responded to our appeal. That one was WSEE the CBS affiliate. N
ot only did the the others not return any waiver, when called on the phone,
 we would get the run around about they have to check it out, ect, ect ect.
   We live in an area with high winds, and in the past, they have bent over
any antenna we had up, and at the age of 68, and on social security, I have
 neither the means or the money to have this rectified by outside people.
I feel this merger is the only way I can have a chance to obtain a decent n
etwork viewing, and be able to watch the local news, events, ect. One must
 realize, that if one is willing to pay to view a network that is available
 locally, it must be a bad signal received. I still can not figure out why
 that is not logical to anyone considering this matter. It would be so goo
d to be able to get the weather warnings, keep up with the local news ect.
 We only get one station (a VHF one) on a table tv in the house, with occas
ional good picture, but all the rest are unviewable.
I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would li
ke to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV
. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous b
enefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programmi
ng, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cabl
e 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 c
hannels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alt
ernative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will no
w be able to turn to sate