

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who supports to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide benefits to me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company can offer more programming choices and local channels.

But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of high-speed Internet service. I have DSL, but it is more costly because virtually no competition exists for broadband services in my rural area! Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to DSL to consumers in rural areas. This will give me 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 lend your support to this merger.