

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please approve the Dish/Direct merger!

I have become increasingly annoyed at my lack of choice in local programming and limitations put on me based on my locale. I have some line that say I may not subscribe to NY local channels, but must take Philadelphia. I have since cancelled my local channels via Dish because of this change. I cannot get a clear picture from off-air programming, so I WANT this choice made available to me. Similarly, my home is NOT served by DSL and therefore my only choice is cable modem for high speed internet access. I must pay a premium for this since I am not a cable tv customer. I WANT you to allow this merger so that I can BENEFIT from the consolidation of my CHOICE in Dish programming AND internet access and ENJOY the discount offered when they come from the same provider.

Perhaps even more important than all the above is with respect to the oncoming HDTV revolution. There are very few HD satalite channels available and part of the reason is the increased bandwidth required to supple HD. The elimination of redundancy in Direct and Dish programming will allow this new technology to be supplied, and provided in the required timeframe for conversion in 2005/6.

Currently I receive HD programming off-air - Ironic that local off-air programmers are leading the technological front over satalite and cable.

Please take this note very seriously. There are many inefficiencies in duplication of these services that cost consumers such as my self in dollars, frustration and hardware excesses.

Sincerely,

John Marshall  
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Princeton, NJ 08540