

I would like to make known my (conditional) support for the proposed merger of EchoStar and DishNetwork DSS carriers. As a customer who lives in a semi-rural area (well, as rural as you can get in Connecticut), I support anything that will enable me to receive the most service for the least money, especially now that there exists the possibility of ACTUAL local channel provision by DSS. That is why I propose this: if the merger is allowed by the FCC and all pertinent parties, any and all rate increases, channel plan changes, etc. MUST be approved in advance by these parties. It is true that this merger would create a provider that could be seen as possessing monopoly power in the marketplace; thus, strict controls must be placed on what it can do and how it can do it. I imagine I am not the first to offer a similar opinion and I will probably not be the last. But, in light of the ever-increasing costs of cable television, a reasonable alternative must be presented.