

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I live in a rural part of Idaho. Due to numerous lava spurs in the area, local television signals do not get to my house. Cable is not available. Therefore satellite systems are the only available source of television signals.

I have received waivers from the local TV stations to allow me to get network stations from my satellite dish, but apparently due to either regulation or technical capabilities, I get the choice of only New York or Los Angeles stations. Although Los Angeles is closer, the time difference makes it impractical since LA's prime time is 9 p.m. to midnight Mountain Time.

So 'local' programming for us comes from NYC. Needless to say, the local news is of little interest to us. We have tried to get this changed to Salt Lake on several occasions, only to be told it can't be done.

The information from Dish indicates we will be able to get the Boise stations if the proposed merger with Direct TV becomes a reality. This would allow us and others in our area to actually get local programming from our satellite systems, programming which is not available from any other source.

I feel this does not create a 'monopoly' in the satellite TV industry since cable and over-the-air TV is available to most of the satellite systems' customers, so it must still compete with them. However, areas like mine will benefit from such a merger by making full TV service economically feasible to areas such as where I live.

Your support for the merger of Dish Network and Direct TV will be greatly appreciated by me, my family, my neighbors and other rural Idaho families with similar TV station availability.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Mitchell
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Melba, ID 83641