

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing today to urge you NOT to support the merger between DirectTV and Echostar/Dish Network. I am a current Dish subscriber in the Washington DC area. When we decided to get satellite television instead of cable TV, we were glad to have a choice between two companies. We chose Dish Network because their prices and promotions were better than those of their competitor DirectTV. By allowing these two companies to become one, Congress would effectively create a monopoly in the satellite TV business and eliminate competition, giving this new company no incentive whatsoever to offer low prices. It's bad enough that cable companies are allowed to maintain a monopoly over local areas. To eliminate competition in the satellite TV market would be one more disservice for the American people.

One thing that confused me in the information I read about the proposed merger was the inclusion of local TV stations in satellite broadcasts. As a subscriber in the Washington DC area, I already receive my local channels via satellite. I understand that this feature is not available everywhere in the country. However, I do not understand why a merger between DirectTV and EchoStar would solve this problem, nor do I feel that is enough of a reason to justify creating a satellite TV monopoly. However, I do feel that Congress should pass legislature that would require local TV stations to provide their feed to the satellite companies, thereby making local channels available to subscribers in every market.

Again, I urge you to support open market competition and vote AGAINST the proposed DirectTV / EchoStar merger.

Sincerely,

Marc Lieberman  
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Herndon, VA 20171