

I write this letter in support of the Echostar/DirectTV merger.

I subscribed to Dish Network about 6 years ago because I felt they offered superior programming for less money than the local cable franchise. I still feel that way. I have enjoyed the quality of the digital picture, the ease of use of Dish's interface, and the lower prices as compared to cable.

I think I bring decent credentials to my consideration of this merger. I love television, I have studied economics at the Ph.D level, and I have read thoroughly on this subject.

As legislators and other regulators consider this merger, the primary question must be, what will make consumers better off? I believe the merger is positive for the consumer.

I believe the nexus of competition is between satellite and cable, not between diverse satellite providers. My cable company has a local monopoly on programming, and that is what needs to be countered by competition.

The merger puts the consolidated satellite provider in a position in which they can more effectively negotiate for programming, leveling the playing field, and reducing costs for consumers. It also allows the satellite provider to provide local programming in all DMAs with the consolidated bandwidth.

My experience with the Dish Network suggests that they will continue to champion the consumer, slowing the escalation in programming costs. Over the last six years they have dramatically improved my entertainment options, while keeping their offerings very cost effective.

I welcome their announcement this week that they will be able to provide local programming to all of America following the merger. Again, this increases competition, as my only option for local programming has remained my local franchised cable provider.

I am better off if this merger is approved. I would welcome your support of this merger.

Sincerely, William Moltzan