

I must vehemently express my objection to the proposed merger of Echostar and Direct TV on the grounds the merger would create a DBS monopoly leaving consumers little choice in programming options.

I am a current Dish Network subscriber who will change to Direct TV as soon as my 12-month obligation to Dish Network is fulfilled. I subscribed to Dish Network in May of 2001 in order to watch the New York Yankees on the MSG Network, which was available on Dish. The Yankees have since formed their own 'YES' network and 130 games are to be broadcast on YES this coming season. I just finished this evening watching Dish Networks 'Charlie Chat' in which Dish Networks' CEO Charles Ergen once again publicly stated 'YES' is too expensive for Dish Network. I turned to DBS & Dish because my local cable company for years told me MSG was too expensive to carry. Without the merger, I now have an option to turn to Direct TV, which has already reached an agreement with the YES network. With the merger, what would my programming options be?

Do not believe everything Charles Ergen says. It is my opinion he will say anything to achieve what he believes is in the best interest of himself and his company. I offer as proof the following link below http://www.tvinsite.com/index.asp?layout=print_page&doc_id=&articleID=CA194126 which describes legal action against Comcast Sports Philadelphia for not providing Dish Network the opportunity to carry the channel. This is in my opinion a staged event to mislead consumers in the Philadelphia area into believing Dish Network would carry Comcast Sports Philadelphia if they had access to the channel. If Charlie Ergen was concerned about acquiring sports programming, why hasn't Dish reached an agreement with YES as has his counterpart company Direct TV? Wouldn't/couldn't Comcast Sports Philadelphia simply ask terms similar to YES to be deemed too expensive by Charlie Ergen?

I do not believe Charlie Ergen or Dish ever plan to offer