

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Hello,

I am writing today on regards of the proposed Dish Network/DirectTV merger. I am a current DishNetwork subscriber and have been for several years.

I have for the most part greatly enjoyed their service, but I believe this merger will cause many problems for subscribers in rural areas such as myself (and most of the people in Mississippi). Echostar claims it will offer competition to cable and DSL subscriptions also, but at what cost? They never mention how much their service will be once there is only ONE satellite provider.

Echostar is also trying to push through the merger by stating that it will allow them to offer 'local channels' to everone across America. For me and many others, this is NOT a good thing. One of the main reasons I got a satellite dish was so I did NOT have to view my local channels. The local NBC (or other major network) for my area can be vastly different from a NBC affiliate served out of New York or other major metropolitan area. Do you know just how boring and backwards some rural television programming can be? It is one step up from local cable access programming...

The Echostar suggestion of offering broadband to rural areas is a great idea if and only if they plan on offering equal access to a variety of computing platforms. If they only offer support for Microsoft Windows it will simply be one monopoly supporting another. Linux and Macintosh support should be mandatory if this merger goes through.

Overall, the merger plan would appear to provide a very nice option to cable, but I do not believe their good intentions would last long once they are the only satellite provider available.

Thank you for your time,

Jason Musselwhite

Sincerely,

Jason Musselwhite
822 Pine Circle
Starkville, MS 39759