

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the Echostar-DirectTV merger. It should NOT be allowed to happen. Merger of the two companies will result in less choice for the consumer in the area of both programming packages and set top box costs. Where I live, downtown Minneapolis, my choices to augment over the air reception are Time Warner Cable, Dish Network, or DirectTV. The merger would remove one of these three choices.

Echostar set top boxes are of poor quality. The proposed merger suggests that the combined company would operate using Dish Network's transmission standard. Owners of better quality DirectTV equipment will, in most cases, lose the equipment they chose to a set top box swap if this goes forward.

The resulting company will have higher prices, inferior customer service and a lackadaisical attitude towards fixing software problems in released products.