

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing you today as a current DishNetwork satellite TV subscriber who wants to lend my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The combination of these two satellite providers will personally provide me with numerous benefits. Among other things, I'm convinced it will help the merged company to keep prices stable, if not allow them to be reduced due to shared resources between the two companies. They have not promised this, but based on previous dealings with EchoStar, I believe this is what would happen.

I have watched the 'Charlie Chat,' a hour-long monthly update to subscribers from the CEO of Dish each month, & have heard how sometimes DishNetwork, by themselves, has a hard time getting networks to negotiate fair deals, especially compared to what the networks agree to with the monster cable companies. The combined satellite company should have less problems getting reasonable rates because of its larger subscriber base.

The combined company will also, for the first time, be able to provide my local channels (2, 6, 8, 11, 17, 19, 23, 41, 47, 53) here in Tulsa for me to view over the dish. This will allow me to cancel my basic cable subscription (which I still have to pay for because there's no other way to get the local channels clearly here). Cable charges about \$12 a month for this service, while Dish currently charges \$6 or less in markets where it is currently providing local channels to its subscribers.

As another example, the cost-effective high speed internet access expected to be provided by the combined company will let me 'cut the cable' and no longer give my money to Cox for high speed cable modem access.

In the interest of improving my access to competitive television and Internet services, I cannot urge you enough: please lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Gene Savage
2321 South 117th East Ave
Tulsa, OK 74129