

I am writing to you today as a current satellite television subscriber who would like to add my voice of OPPOSITION to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

DIRECTV has been a wonderful satellite television provider, and I strongly feel that EchoStar does not provide the same level of service. Whenever my guests who are EchoStar customers, see my DIRECTV system, they always make the comment that they are making a switch from EchoStar to DIRECTV. They tell me that the choice of channels is better, they claim the picture freezes on their EchoStar system, where it doesn't on DIRECTV. The system layout makes more sense to them also. Of course, I've always felt this way. That's why I went with DIRECTV.

It seems to me the combination of EchoStar and DIRECTV, with EchoStar on top, will destroy the DIRECTV quality I've become accustomed to. With Charlie Ergen, EchoStar will always try to underpay programmers (ABC Family, Disney, etc&), thereby loosing them.

No matter how hard I try, I cannot see how one increases competition by reducing the number of competitors. DIRECTV has been working hard to provide local television service, and I feel they've been doing a good job. EchoStar, on the other hand, is challenging the must-carry laws. Why does Mr. Ergen claim that all local channels will be carried with a merger, when he's fighting this law?

In the interest of keeping our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your OPPOSITION to this merger.