

I would like to voice my support for the proposed Echostar/DirectTV merger. I am a satellite subscriber living in a small town with limited choices for television. Currently I can try to receive TV broadcasts via an antenna, which yeilds marginal results at best. My second option is subscribing to our local cable provider which has been raising rates at will for the past three years to a point that they are priced 15 to 20% higher than my satellite service and offering fewer channel selections and an inferior product...not to mention an arrogant, anti-consumer attitude towards customer service. My third option is the one I have chosen, satellite TV. I am receiving an excellent picture at a very reasonable rate with outstanding customer service. The only thing lacking is access to my local channels...a situation that would be rectified with the proposed merger.

By allowing the Echostar/DirectTV merger, you will enable the satellite industry to compete on level ground with the cable companies. The satellite spectrum allocation was supposed to provide competition to the cable industry. The proposed merger allows for exactly that scenario to take place. Please support the Echostar/DirectTV merger. Let's balance the satellite-cable playing field to provide consumers with the opportunity to make an equal choice, and to help keep the deregulated cable giants in check.

Thank you for taking time to listen to my perspective on this issue