

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a rural Dishnetwork subscriber and I am writing in favor of the proposed merger of Dishnetwork and DirectTV. I live in an area where I cannot get cable service for broadcast TV or broadband internet, nor can I get high-speed internet access through the phone company at a reasonable rate (I could get it for \$500+/month, but that's not really affordable). I also have an amplified antenna to receive off-the-air stations from our nearest broadcast market, but the quality of reception varies from station to station because of the distance and interference between the transmitters and my antenna. I'm not yet sure if I would benefit from the high-speed internet access proposed by Dishnetwork because I have specific internet connection requirements cannot be met by their current offering (via Starband), but I have hopes that as home networks and telecommuters become more prevalent, that they will accommodate those customers. However, I do not consider there to be real competition between Dishnetwork and DirectTV, because of the incompatibility of their equipment. Some programming is offered only via DirectTV (e.g. NFL season ticket) and other programming is offered only via Dishnetwork satellites (Dominion Sky Angel). A unified and open standard would really promote more competition for receivers and would also be a much better use of limited and expensive satellite bandwidth. Overall I am impressed at Dishnetwork's proposed plans and strategy for satellite utilization and I believe it would be in my best interest for the merger to be allowed.

Sincerely,

Alex Stagg
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Norwalk, IA 50211