

I am writing to OPPOSE the proposed merger of EchoStar and DirecTv. I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of concern to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. Today with competition between the two subscription prices have been stable and lower than cable as well more channels have been added without increased cost to me as a subscriber.

By merging, the combined company will be a monopoly just like cable television and can raise prices effecting every market in the U.S. I speak from first hand experience as a former subscriber to cable before coming to satellite my company raised prices for every reason under the sun. Until Satellite was available I was at the mercy of the cable company.

Cable competition was not easy, because infrastructure was so difficult and costly to put in place, but with DBS technology competition is feasible and possible in the pay television arena. Allowing these two satellite companies to merge would make it very cost prohibitive for a new competitor to enter the marketplace for satellite. The new DirecTV would have so many spot beam satellites under it's control it could make it even more financially prohibitive for a competitor to enter the market and deliver the same amount of channels to consumers. Costs of BOTH Cable and Satellite could go up unchecked over time limiting consumer choices.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to OPPOSE to this merger.