

I urge that you give strong support to the merger of Echo Star and Direct TV. I have had Dish Network service for about four years. I have Time Warner Cable for local network service. This merger will give true competition to the local cable monopoly. I am sure that when I am able to get local networks on my dish, it will be cable that no longer serves my home. I was paying cable over \$70.00 per month when I went to Dish Network. Four years later I am paying Dish Network about that same \$70.00 per month for a whole lot more service. In these four years the cost of Time Warner Cable has gone up a large percentage for the class of service that I have. Two of my sons live in Omaha where cable rates are much lower because cable service can be purchased from more than one cable source. Because Echo Star uses the same rate structure for the entire United States, this merger will provide true competition for both areas such as Columbus, Nebraska with a monopoly cable provider and for rural areas that can gain from the rates created by true cable and satellite competition for both video and broadband service.