

My name is Mark Thorne. Currently I am an unhappy cable television subscriber. I have been considering subscribing to satellite service for some time but have not done so since the local channels in my area are not available via satellite at this time and I do not wish to erect a large antenna. The proposed Hughes-Echostar merger would prove quite beneficial since the capability would exist to provide all Americans a choice in programming at a competitive price. Currently I pay \$45.00 a month for 57 channels on cable and I could get over 100 channels via satellite for about \$35.00 a month. This would save me \$120.00 a year, a savings that could be used elsewhere in a difficult economy. I urge you to support this merger. It will be good for everyone. Even cable subscribers would see a benefit when the cable providers lower prices to compete, a practice they currently have little reason to do since they maintain legal monopolies in the cities they serve. Thank You!

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