

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of NOT supporting the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The combination of these two satellite providers will NOT provide benefits to consumers like me. Fewer choices in channels, programming with higher costs.

Merging these companies will be a lesser competitor to cable television and would offer me less satellite programming choices. By providing fewer channels, this merger will cost the customer more and make satellite television a weaker alternative to cable by reducing the number of competitive companies.

The merger will not bring the availability of low priced high-speed Internet service by satellite. The cost of usage and equipment will be out of reach for the 40 million Americans who don't have low priced high-speed Internet access.

Benefits to consumers can and will happen without the merger. This will not give me a competitive choice for Internet access just like the FCC blocked the choice over cable access suppliers.

I urge you to NOT support this merger. Big companies merging have never supported the consumer. Especially if the FCC has been involved. For example, the fees for my phone bill have skyrocketed with no relief in site.