

I would like you to support the Echostar/ DirectTV merger because I believe consumers will benefit.

I have been a Dish Network subscriber for the past three years. It was a happy day when I called my local cable company and told them I had enough of their price increases. Once it hit \$40 for 30 non premium channels, I looked elsewhere. Dish offers 150 digital channels for the same price. I have read a lot of different opinions people have about this merger. I believe that if you were to set up some post-merger requirements, this will insure the new Echostar promotes competition and benefits us. Here's some ideas: make sure they maintain a certain number of pricing tiers. Currently, they have three basic groups- Top50 at \$23, Top100 at \$32, and Top150 at \$41. Maybe you can require them to keep a package for under \$25 for at least five years. Make them commit to a specific date by which all local channels will be broadcast. If they miss that date, they should be fined a certain amount every month until it is completed. Similar commitments can be made for HDTV channels and broadband access. My belief is that the HDTV business cannot take off until there is enough good content. And until the cable companies have competition from someone, they're not going to offer it. And unless the two satellite companies are merged, they're not going to be able to add HDTV channels either. Please make sure this merger happens.