

To whom it may concern:

I have been growing increasingly angry over the intrusion of outsiders into the private viewing habits of Americans. Restriction have been put in place starting with the American Home Viewers Act, a euphemism for restricting American citizens' rights to watch any channel in America they wish to watch. Instead, powerful interest groups restrict viewing to so called local channels, and they decide if we can view their signal or not. Furthermore, many 'local' stations are dragging their feet on conversion to DTV. In Denver, the local networks do not all carry DTV broadcasts. Dish Network offered to provide CBS HDTV broadcasts to its customers. I was denied this reception since the local station claims to provide it, even though it's DTV signal is weak, unreliable, and will be so for years to come.

I tried Cable TV years ago, but their service level ranged from arrogant to incompetent. I've had 5 visits to my home by TCI/ATT cable, with promises to 'hook me up' for Internet, but no follow-up.

Dish Network works for the viewing consumer. They deliver what they claim to deliver, in a quality way and are innovative in bringing DTV/HDTV to many of us who bought HDTV sets, only to learn that the local networks and CTV providers are still resisting this technology.

I become really angry when I learn that these powerful interest groups oppose the Dish/DirectTV merger. Of course they do! They don't want someone else actually providing what the consumers want..more DTV/HDTV programming AND with quality service.

The irony is that CTV and OTA DTV have the upper hand in providing low cost DTV/HDTV programming. CTV has its sunk cost already in with its cable network. They only need to get their act together. But why should they if they don't have to. If they oppose Dish/DirectTV, they can forestall their need to change. And for OTA DTV, the networks just don't get it. 60 channels with 10 subcarrier channels is 600 channels per market off a single antenna