

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I travel frequently between Seattle, WA and my home in Lubbock, TX. When we moved into our new home in Oct. 2001, we tried, unsuccessfully, to receive satellite network programming from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. We had moved from Boyd, TX where this service was, and still is, available via Dish Network. When initially inquiring about satellite service for the new house, we were told that it would be possible for us to receive local programming from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and another market area of our choosing. This later proved to be incorrect.

Since satellite television is a subscription service, I feel that ANY person at any location in the country should be able to have broadcast network programming via satellite from ANY market in the country of their choosing. A customer in Portland, OR, or Portland, ME should be able to watch NBC from Miami, FL or Phoenix, AZ if that's what they want to do. If we are willing to pay for it, why should we not be permitted to view television at our discretion? This to me is illogical, counterproductive, and undesirable. This does not benefit the end user, the customer.

Therefore, I am very much in favor of the merger since it would begin to allow access to whatever programming, broadcast or otherwise, we consumers choose to watch. This is the American way. What is the purpose of offering access to satellite television if not to provide complete programming that the customers want to see? This should not be regulated as it currently is. The merger should be quickly approved so we can move on to more pressing issues.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Walker  
5807 92nd St.  
Lubbock, TX 79424