

I am opposed to the pending merger of Echostar and DirecTv.

- 1) I believe this merger is in opposition to existing antitrust laws.
- 2) Contrary to statements made by the merger applicants, I believe the consumer will suffer, not benefit from this merger. Competition will be stifled, price of services will rise (true guaranteed national pricing is not to be believed), customer service quality will greatly suffer, and programming choices will slow down as a single national satellite provider flexes its muscle to the program originators.
- 3) Small business (local dealers) will suffer because the merged entity will have total control of the DBS satellite industry, and by FCC documents, Echostars' dealings with them have been riddled with "disingenuous behavior and lack of candor". The same attitude is prevails with Echostars' attitude toward its' independent retailer base. Promises made, promises broken, is a normal course of business for Echostar.
- 4) Finally, I believe there will be more technological advances to benefit consumers if the merger is not approved. Necessity is the mother of invention, and without another national satellite competitor, there will be limited need to provide additional benefits to the consumer, only a corporate need to provide a higher rate of return on Echostar's investment.

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