

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I support the EchoStar - DIRECTV merger.

As the networks did before cable, the cable industry has become too comfortable in its competitive position, and it fails over and over again to provide even the most basic level of quality in customer service.

What's worse, the cable industry and networks - through their respective lobbies - have made it nearly impossible to fully transfer to a small dish provider for television service.

The legislation that prohibits satellite providers from offering distant local network programming is, without a doubt, one of the most sickening examples of stunted competition that the country has ever witnessed.

My right to choose a provider that not only delivers a good picture and an acceptable range of programming, along with decent customer service has been completely neutralized.

Given any other acceptable choice for network programming, (and let me be clear, in the twenty-first century, a terrestrial antenna ...especially in my market... is NOT acceptable.) I would drop cable so fast your head would spin.

The government, the cable industry and their lobbyists have prevented me, and countless other 'happy' cable subscribers, from leaving for greener pastures.

I support the merger because it will level the playing field and allow me - once and for all - to vote my conscience and my dollar as I would like to.

With such a robust cable industry, the EchoStar / DIRECTV merger can't even remotely be considered a monopoly. What's more, if the cable industry really offers the service and product that is competitive, they have nothing to fear.

But, this merger will be contested.

It will be contested because it threatens the comfortable, fat-cat existence the cable industry has governed its way into.

It will be contested because cable companies are afraid they won't survive such a merger.

But - make no mistake - if they don't survive this type of competitive challenge, it won't be because satellite providers are so good (which they are...) it will be because the cable industry is so bad.

Sincerely,

Travis Williams
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Bloomington, IL 61704