

I urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

This is the only way that satellite TV will ever be able to compete effectively, on a nationwide basis, with the cable and telephone companies.

Right now, Echostar and DirectTV offer nearly identical services, but on separate satellites. There is no need for such redundancy, as it wastes spectrum and valuable geosynchronous satellite positions, which are quite limited in number.

Combining the two companies will be great for consumers, as they will finally have a reasonable alternative to the cable company monopoly, ANYWHERE in the U.S.

One nationwide pricing plan ensures that those living in rural areas will not be gouged even if the number of satellite providers is reduced from two to one. Echostar/DirectTV still must compete with the entrenched cable monopoly in cities, so a nationwide pricing program ensures that they can't raise prices to rural areas while they lower prices to metropolitan areas.

Finally, as an HDTV owner, I am appalled by the lack of progress in delivery of HDTV television services to consumers. By combining forces, EchoStar and DirectTV will be able to offer up to 12 HDTV channels, instead of only 4. This is important to the future of the HDTV industry in the U.S. and overseas, and deserves your consideration.

Please support this legislation and feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this complex matter.