

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I strongly support the merger between Dish Network and Direct TV. My reason is two fold. First, in the area in which I reside, Eastern Shore of Virginia, there are only two or three internet providers available for us to subscribe. We can not reach any of the major providers (i.e. MSN, AOL) with a local number only long distance. Also, since this is a rural area the communication lines are not modern. Therefore, such things as DSL are also not available.

As far as cable goes an example of our inferior system is our local NBC (WAVY 10) and ABC (Channel 13) are in Norfolk, VA. This is approximately two hours from us, and geographically we are seperated by the Chesapeake Bay and a huge NASA/Navy facility that makes viewing the network often impossible without severe interference. Also, since this is a rural area many of the networks and premium channels are not offered to our communities.

This mereger would be a 'godsend' to our areas. It would make our local phone and cable companies to start investing more money in our rural areas since competition would finally be presented.

Thanks for listening. I hope that we may finally be put in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

William McComb Jr.
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