

I am writing to you today to sincerely urge you to support the merger of Echostar (i.e. Dish Network) and Hughes (i.e. Direct TV). As a current Dish Network subscriber, I clearly see this as being in the best interests of the consumer!

Please don't be swayed by the self-serving lobbying efforts of cable companies, programmers, and tycoons (including Rupert Murdoch of NewsCorp whom I sense opposes the merger merely to advance self-serving interests). Rather, please take a serious look at how this merger would benefit the consumer!

I personally would benefit from the merger with more channel choices, and lower rates (i.e. the newly merged company could pass along to consumers the benefits of decreased operating expenses, along with their leveraged ability to sustain current profit margins). I also have relatives in Rural America who would benefit from the merger, especially in regard to the 'National Pricing Plan' (i.e. allowing rural Americans access to more services at competitive prices).

In my view, the primary competition to these two DBS satellite companies is clearly the local cable companies. Specifically, while DBS satellite technology is certainly different technology than cable, the service offered is essentially identical! And in fact, the lack of choices in a local cable provider seems to me much more of a monopoly concern (i.e. why do I only have one cable company servicing my large metropolitan neighborhood??). Don't you think a bigger and better DBS satellite provider would promote healthier competition within the broader cable industry (i.e. allowing more viable choices and overall lower prices within local markets)?

Admittedly, on the surface there are legitimate concerns about monopolies and duopolies, ... but given the potential benefits of a merger, these concerns are unwarranted. It seems to me that any other issues of this merger can be adequately resolved through modest regulatory measures to assure ethical business practices.

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