

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I live in a small town in MO approx 95 miles west of St Louis currently not ok'd to receive St Louis locals. The wrinkle in this if I moved 5 Miles east I could. I have been pro-choice all my life and think I should able to watch any news or programs from any town only limited by technology. To get St Louis networks by antenna requires a 500 to 1000 dollar antenna & rotor system. I can go downtown to pick up a local paper - there I find the weekly St James Leader Journal and St Louis Post. If I had wanted a paper from Springfield or Jefferson City/Columbia, it's my choice to drive 10 miles west to a Rolla Bookstore. If I have a choice in the written media, I should have it in the visual media as well. By not allowing customers access to local programming is a violation of our 1st amendment rights especially when the Cable Companies do. If Congress is worried about pricing, our local cable company with a digital hookup actually costs more per month than Dish Network and less channels for the service. With the merger of Dish/DirecTV, this would make all transmission of local channels to all 210 markets possible - not just the current 30-40. When living in a rural area, choices of internet access is limited (NO DSL) or any other broadband available. The merger would be a total win win situation for myself and family - choice in locals and internet access. We have been with Dish Network since June 1998 and will NEVER go back to the Bad Service/Overpriced Cable Company.

Thank you

Sincerely,

JANE DOWLER
903 NORTH JEFFERSON
ST JAMES, MO 65559