

I am writing to you today as a current Dish network satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. I started using their service 2 years ago and it is so superior to cable that I will never go back to cable at any price. I originally dropped my cable subscription because it was 'overpriced' and did not offer any choices of service or equipment. Now I have more choices in programming, more choices in equipment, better picture and sound quality and I pay about half the price I did for cable. The only thing I am currently missing is 'local channels', but you can help me by approving the merger of the two satellite providers. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where