

Dear Political Leaders

As a current subscriber to the Dish Network, I am in favor of the merger and encourage you to take the necessary action to allow it to happen.

However, I have an even bigger concern regarding the Dish Network and that is the East-West network package they can no longer provide us. It is my understanding that the reason for this intrusion on our viewing freedom is an agreement that was made between you the elected officials and the local network stations. Where was the viewing public representation while this was going on? Basically, you have allowed special interest groups (local network stations) dictate what we the viewing public are allowed to watch on TV.

The East-West network package is an option we have subscribed to for the past several years to view network news on the East Coast in real time such as the local coverage of the tragic 9.11 terrorist attack. Or watch a network program on the West Coast that we missed on local time. Basically, our viewing freedom has been taken away by special interest groups more concerned with their selfish interests than the viewing public. Realistically, do the local network stations actually believe the viewing public will see an advertisement for a product or service in a city on the other side of the country and actually go there and make that purchase rather than locally? Truly, an insult to the intelligence of the public!

The government will not allow us to view certain broadcasts? I thought this only happened in dictatorial societies! How could you let this happen? The bottom line is very simple, as long as the viewing public is willing to pay for a service they should be allowed to watch what they want on cable or by satellite! As an example, if the viewing public is able to access pornography channels without any government intervention, certainly the viewers should have that same right to view something more positive and useful like other network stations around the country! What is wrong with this picture?

If you sincerely want to act in behalf of the viewing public, the East-West network package should be expanded rather than restricted to allow a viewer to select various stations around the country as part of that package. Perhaps a viewer would like to keep on top of events in their hometown area, as an example!

Unfortunately, the viewing public does not have lobbyist pounding on your doors like the TV network special interest groups to convince you act in their behalf. All we the viewing public can possibly hope for is the political leaders will realize their actions is an infringement on the freedom of the American public and act accordingly. Isn't it time the political leaders inform those who are pushing for viewing restrictions, the government will no longer deny the viewing public access to any broadcast, this is a free society! Please consider what is best for the viewing public rather than what is best for the TV special interests groups. Reverse your decision and give us are viewing freedom back and allow the merger to take place.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Slater