

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. 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. This is especially important in our community that doesn't have all the local networks available off-the-air. The only current alternative is cable which is known for high prices and poor service. These are so bad that I currently do without access to this network locally instead of going back to cable. I feel that the only way that cable companies will have an incentive to improve is if they face some real competition such as this merger will enable.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.