

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Having been a Dish Network Customer for about the past 4 years, I am very excited about the prospects of the proposed Merger between Echostar and Direct-TV. I have written previously concerning the benefits, but now I'd like to add one more VERY IMPORTANT ONE. It has been said with this merger EVERY CUSTOMER EVERYWHERE will get LOCAL CHANNELS. Without the merger, the fact remains that only about 20-25% of America will ever be served by satellite delivered locals. Why is this important? I ask you to only look to the recent events of the news and how important the Amber Alert System has proven to be already in assisting with the location of missing persons. Just today, 2 teenage girls in CA were located in part through the use of the Amber Alert. For a satellite subscriber without local programming, I may not hear of such missing persons if I cannot get my locals. Furthermore, I risk missing urgent news and information from the EAS System as well, as that information is always delivered REGIONALLY. IF my region is not served, I am left in the cold. National access to locals ensures that EVERY TV WATCHER has access to Amber Alert and EAS systems and information when they need it. Plus the fact that we would be granted easy access to local news and information. I live in the 91st market in the US. Without this merger, I DO NOT GET LOCALS AND I MOST LIKELY NEVER WILL. The merger is good so stimulate competition between cable and satellite and place them on a level playing field. FOR the sake of all customers WITHOUT LOCALS, I urge you to PLEASE allow this merger to continue and swiftly.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hilton
1944 Fairwood Lane
State College, PA 16803