

I am asking you support the merger between Echostar and DirectTV Hughes). The combined company will be a greater competitor to cable and will prove to be a true competitor in offering local channels to all 210 DMA's. I will never receive local programming with the 2 dbs companies having to duplicate 500 channels across the dbs spectrum. If that duplication were to be eliminated, all viewers in the US could receive their locals through dbs, offering at last, competition to the cable companies. Those in smaller markets will finally be served. Smaller market viewers are at 2 disadvantages. For one, their local programming is not available. Two, those wishing DirectTV services are forced to subscribe through one of the NRTC companies, and are charged a premium. I have been one of those customers and did not appreciate the fact I was paying more than those in bigger cities for the same programming, yet could not receive my local channels as they could. The merged company states that there will be one price for all subscribers across the US. On top of this, the combined company should be able to offer better picture quality by avoiding the duplication. I see no reason why anyone should be against this merger and ask that be approved as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.