

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a former cable subscriber who switched to satellite TV, because I was tired of being lied to by CableOne about service problems and the up coming cable modem access. I was told for a year and a half that it was only a few months away. And after I switched to DishNetwork it was still another year before cable modems were available. As a satellite subscriber, at this time, I cannot get a decent signal (not viewable) for CBS or NBC because they are too far away, but not far enough away to get a waiver and access to a generic CBS or NBC. As I see it the only way to receive these is by allowing the merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV to proceed.

This would free up bandwidth to allow the satellite provider to provide my local channels and provide a full benefit alternative to CableOne. Once this has occurred, CableOne may start to compete. They may even start providing phone service which would force BellSouth to compete for my business. If they do not compete, I will stay with my current satellite service, which I am very happy with.

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Wasn't the Telecommunications Act supposed to provide competition. How would preventing this merger help competition? The real monopolies are my cable and phone companies.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger. My wife and I do vote in every election and will be watching to see who is on the consumers side and who is on CableOne and BellSouths side.

Sincerely,

Claude Sells
915 Marjorie St
Long Beach, MS 39560