

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

01-348

From: "Toymiester" <toymiester@charter.net>
To: <mcopps@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/24/02 8:07PM
Subject: Dishnetwork & Directv Merger

Hello,

Please do not approve the merger between Dish Network and DirecTV.

I have had both services and liked the option of having a CHOICE between the two companies. How can you let the two companies merge, the consumer will not have any choice in satellite services. Prices will go sky high just like cable... Thank You

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From: "Christopher Scott Elam" <cafilmboy@sbcglobal.net>
To: <mcopps@fcc.gov>
Date: 8/2/02 11:35AM
Subject: Hughes/Echostar merger

Hello,

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed merger of Hughes (Directv) and Echostar (Dish Network). As a consumer, I feel that mergers between large companies are often sold to the public as a way of expanding options and increasing competition when in fact, it seems to have the opposite effect. I do not support this merger as I feel that the subscribers of satellite programming will have no choices except to order programming from one company. I do not subscribe to the theory that this combined company will offer strong competition for cable companies. I feel that the comparison is not a true competition between terrestrial cable companies and a solitary satellite provider. I urge Mr. Powell to reconsider his stance on this important issue. I have never been an active subscriber of satellite service and have no real affinity for the cable I subscribe to either. However, I am writing to express my opinion because I feel that diminished competition will not allow me to have multiple decisions when it comes to my television programming. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher Elam

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From: "Weber RT (Reg)" <RTWeber@equiva.com>
To: "mpowell@fcc.gov" <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/11/02 10:54AM
Subject: Proposed Merger DIRECTV & DishNetwork

As a consumer I am totally against the proposed merger between DIRECTV AND DishNetwork. Both companies currently command a large percentage of the satellite TV market. By allowing this merger, you will create a monopoly and reduce the competitive nature of free business enterprise.

The cost of satellite TV is already astronomical very much similar to cost of taking your family to a baseball game. If you allow this merger, you will again support big business against the consumer.

Thanks for the consideration.

Reg Weber
Franktown, CO

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From: "Dave Sellars" <dsellars@starband.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/1/02 9:10PM
Subject: Dish Network, Direct TV merger...

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to express my opinion of the merger of Dish Network and Direct TV. That this merger would create a monopoly in the Satellite Television providers market. I am also a subscriber to Starband broadband internet satellite services. They 'were' in partnership with Dish Network and because of Dish Networks' 'dark' business practices has had to sever that relationship and file for chapter 11 bankruptcy. It looks like a recovery is in the works, but there are literally tens of thousands of real people who have invested hundreds of dollars each in the hardware to receive and transmit across the internet in rural America. Dish Network caused this problem without regard to it's Starband customers. Dish Network is touting in commercials that if the merger goes through they will be able to provide broadband internet access, but they are not disclosing the source of this service. In fact they don't disclose much of anything to the public, except how great things will be if it happens. It's just more capitalism without controls, and we, the consumers, will be the losers. I highly urge those who grant the permission for such mergers to look things over very carefully, don't get caught up in the technical pros and cons of this merger, take a hard look at the business side, especially the parts that take place in corporate board rooms. The public sense of humor with regard to Corporate America is waning fast.

Respectfully,

David L. Sellars
12302 182nd Drive N.E.
Arlington, WA. 98223
Dish Network customer
Starband Satellite Service customer

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From: "PYLKKI, Lucy" <lpylkki@asante.org>
To: "'mpowell@fcc.gov'" <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/1/02 4:40PM
Subject: DISH Network and Direct TV merger

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the merger between Echostar and Direct TV. I am a DISH subscriber and although I have no complaints in regards to their technology and reception quality, I have been very dissatisfied with their customer service and would like to change services when my subscription has expired. I live in a rural area where local television and cable TV are not an option for me. The merger would do nothing except to create a monopoly and give the consumer fewer options. The merger would do nothing to improve quality of service. Thank you for your time.

Lucy Pylkki
Medford, Oregon

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From: FDSMITH <fdsmith@quik.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/4/02 4:09PM
Subject: DishTV

Sir:

Dish Network advertises 100% digital operation for their most popular satellite receivers. I expected, as a minimum, to have digital audio outputs on my receiver in accordance with their ads. Their receiver has only analog outputs. Clearly false advertising.

I also hope that we will never see a merger of DirecTV and Dish Network.

Thank You,

Frank D. Smith, P.E.
2932 SW Cascade Vista Drive
Redmond, OR 97756 541/923-8304 fdsmith@quik.com

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From: "Glide" <4u2read@iglide.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/6/02 12:47PM
Subject: EchoStar/Direct TV Merger plan

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Hello
Chairman Michael K. Powell,

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

Commissioner Michael J. Copps,

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin ,

I think it is completely foolish to allow this EchoStar/Direct TV Merger plan.
As a customer of Dish network I already get poor customer service
(like the other day I call Dish and ask to speak to a manager I was told NO I said then I will just go to
Direct TV she said go ahead were buying them !!).
If you approve the merger than there will only be One Satellite company to run gun shot over all us
customers.

I want the opportunity to dump one and choose the other.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Phillips

904 Holiday

Hazelwood Missouri 63042

314-895-4922

CC: <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>

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From: <MZup@aol.com>
To: <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/8/02 9:01PM
Subject: Dish Network/Direct TV merger

Hello,

As a current Dish Network subscriber, I am opposed to the proposed merger of these two companies. I feel the level of service will diminish considerably as they will no longer have a competitor in that no other satellite company now exists. The story of how they are a minor player against the cable companies maybe true, but they provide another venue of service, via satellite which cannot be readily duplicated. Thank You for your time!

Mike

Mike Zupkofska
 19 Rice Ave.
 Rockland, MA 02370

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From: <dsands25@bellsouth.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/8/02 10:07PM
Subject: EchoStar-DirectV Merger

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I would appreciate it if you would approve the merger between Directv and EchoStar. The merger will enable more local channels price stability even lower prices. I would like to know when I can expect a vote on the merger. As a customer of EchoStar, I believe that the merger will allow me to view my local channels, and I would also get more programming, and lower prices. The new company would be a big competitor for cable companies. I have hear some senators and other people claim that the new company would become a monopoly. That is not true. If you really want to do what's best for consumers then approve the merger.

CC: <mcopps@fcc.gov>

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From: Dennis Berman <boydogdennyb@netscape.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/10/02 12:12PM
Subject: DirectTV/Dishnetwork MERGER

I am totally against this merger as it would give them a total monopoly. Their rates are to high and at least I have a "choice" now.

Thanks for your help on this issue!!!

Dennis N. Berman
KC7IWP

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From: "Pinto, Mike" <pinto@mbari.org>
To: "mpowell@fcc.gov" <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/10/02 1:00PM
Subject: DirectTV and Dish Merger

I encourage the FCC to approve the DirectTV-Dish merger. The combined companies will eliminate redundant bandwidth use and allow those of us in rural areas to receive local programming and increased HDTV broadcasts.

C. Michael Pinto
513 W. Carmel Valley Road
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

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From: "Thomas Engel" <tengel@myritronics.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/12/02 11:20PM
Subject: Dish network and Direct TV merger

I am a dish network subscriber and want to voice an opinion. I am not please with their merger with Direct TV. There is not enough competition and the service and programming with DN is just so-so for now, but take away their impetus to improve and innovate and then we'll have to go back to cable and we can't stand cable. These companies don't care about a few customers and some of us would like OPTIONS. So please lets work together to help the mostly powerless consumer. If the majority of the buying public decided to buy Opium would we let a pharmaceutical company start manufacturing it because most of want it? We can't let them make those decisions for the rest of us.

Thank you,

Thomas M. Engel
2956 Portales
Fort Worth, Texas 76116
817-560-1281
tengel@myritronics.com

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From: Thomas Engel <lothius@swbell.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/12/02 11:22PM
Subject: Dish network and Direct TV merger

I am a dish network subscriber and want to voice an opinion. I am not please with their merger with Direct TV. There is not enough competition and the service and programming with DN is just so-so for now, but take away their impetus to improve and innovate and then we'll have to go back to cable and we can't stand cable. These companies don't care about a few customers and some of us would like OPTIONS. So please lets work together to help the mostly powerless consumer. If the majority of the buying public decided to buy Opium would we let a pharmaceutical company start manufacturing it because most of want it? We can't let them make those decisions for the rest of us.

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Thank you,

Thomas M. Engel
2956 Portales
Fort Worth, Texas 76116
817-560-1281
tengel@myritronics.com

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From: <cardangelo@att.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/16/02 10:44AM
Subject: EchoStar Merger

I am currently a subscriber of Dish Network and I am COMPLETELY OPPOSED to this merger. No matter how many safeguards you attempt to put in place, the bottom line is that this merger ELIMINATES COMPETITION. Rates will go up at a much more substantial rate once the dust settles with the merger. Additionally, Dish Network currently allows customers to add single channels, rather than purchasing entire tiers of service (which Direct TV requires). This alone would substantially increase the rates. This merger should not be allowed-- it is NOT in the best interests of the consumer.

Carmine D'Angelo
1273 North Avenue #3C6
New Rochelle, NY 10804

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From: "Lee W. Bannister" <lwb@pobox.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/16/02 5:00PM
Subject: Please do not approve the Dish Network/DirectTV Merger!

Chairman Powell,

I am writing to you to request that the FCC not approve the Dish Network/DirectTV merger.

I have been awaiting installation of a Dish Network system for 2 months now and Dish Network has missed appointments, failed to find a proper ground, and in the latest appointment - canceled because they didn't have the correct ladder on their truck.

My understanding is that these problems are not isolated and that consumer after consumer has to deal with similar issues.

Until a company can show that they truly care about US consumers, they should not be allowed to engage in activities such as mergers and the like that will no doubt benefit them, while taking their focus even further away from the end-consumer.

I would be interested in filing a formal FCC complaint regarding my problems with Dish Network if at all possible.

Respectfully,
Lee Bannister

414 Lockhart Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 231-2402

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From: "Jan Jones" <jj3j1@pgtc.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/16/02 7:40PM
Subject: Dishnetwork (no) please!

PLease do not allow the merger of Dishnetwork and Direct t.v if there is ever a corporate scandal to be investigated, Dishnetworks billing practices are at the top with Enron, Worldcom and Bristol Myers, please let us have a choice and do not force us who live in rural america to go back to a antenna. thanks, James and Jan JOnes ,Summers, Ark. population 109.....

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From: "richard" <rstimmel@mchsi.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: 7/17/02 2:02PM
Subject: echostar merger

please approve the merger between echostar/dish network and huges/directv

Richard E Stimmel
801 myatt dr apt 20
maquoketa ia 52060-3360
dish network subscriber

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From: "colbert_office" <colbert_office@att.net>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Thu, Jun 20, 2002 6:02 PM
Subject: Echostar/DirecTV Merger

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the proposed Echostar/DirecTV merger.

I have been a Dish(Echostar) customer for several years. I was one of their first customers, however, I am now in the process of switching to DirecTV.

My location is serviced by Dish, DirecTV, and Cable One (Cable One is not really an option due to their lack of competitive programming and their lack of a digital signal).

THIS LEAVES DIRECTV AS MY ONLY COMPETITIVE ALTERNATIVE TO DISH. Approval of the proposed merger would leave me, and many other direct broadcast satellite consumers, at the mercy of the resulting monopoly. I am a strong believer in a competitive marketplace. I have never seen a good monopoly.

Why am I switching from Dish to DirecTV? Simple. As we draw closer to the expected merger decision date, I perceive an increasingly arrogant attitude and lack of customer service quality at Dish Network. Two of the most recent reasons are shown below:

Reason 1. As one of Dishes first customers, I have watched over the years as Dish has lured new subscribers with cheap, or even free, satellite systems. I paid several hundred dollars for my two systems. These systems were advertised to be upgradeable as new features became available. This has not been the case. For example, Dish has steadily increased the volume of program info in their broadcast signal as they have added additional channels. This info is the on-screen text data that describes a programs content, air time, etc. This does not present a problem for new Dish receivers with larger memory and faster processors, however, my receivers cannot handle the increased load and, as a result, I am often unable to get on-screen program information. I emailed Dish and asked if they had upgrades or new system discounts available for customers with these older receivers. They acknowledged the problem and the cause but have ignored (five emails) my questions regarding upgrades or new system discounts.

Reason 2. I subscribe to the Dish Americas Top 150 programming package. I was shocked recently as I was going through the channels at 8 AM one morning and came across what any reasonable person could only describe as a PORN movie (Private Lies). Dish on-screen info showed the movie as rated NR/AO. The movie was being shown on The Movie Channel (TMC), owned by Showtime Networks/Viacom. TMC is part of the Dish Americas Top 150 package. No choice here, if you subscribe to the 150 package, you get TMC. I called and emailed Dish to ask about why such a movie was being aired during the day on a non-adult channel. Their response was that they have no

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