

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in response to the recent 4-0 vote to reject the Echostar-DirecTV merger. I am absolutely disgusted by the attitudes of the FCC in this matter. FCC states that approving the merger would weaken competitiveness and create an unfair monopoly, my 1st thought is oh like the unfair cable monopoly that is already in place??? This is a sad day in our great nation when political power plays and personal agendas get in the way of serving the best interest of the American people, which has not been done here in this case. All that has been accomplished by this action is to strengthen the cable monopolies strangle hold on consumers and make it near impossible to provide Broadband Internet access to anyone who wants it. DSL is a thing of the past losing to Cable Modems and now because of the FCC in their infinite wisdom the potential for a satellite delivered solution will never be realized to its full potential. What are people in rural locations suppose to do???? What about the people like myself and so many others that are denied our rights to network television like ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX because our local affiliates don't want us viewing from other areas and not from their advertisers that are paying them. SHIVA is a joke and unenforced, I know I fought that battle as well only to be told it's not the FCC's fault where I choose to live. This merger was our last best hope for fair treatment and equality with cable subscribers and now our elected leaders have chosen to allow us to be left out in the cold. I am very disappointed and very ashamed of the FCC for allowing such a failure to the American people to occur.

I only hope that they will look at the proposed merger for what it really is and its real benefits instead of what they think it is and its drawbacks that really aren't drawbacks. Please I implore you, don't take away our right to viewing equality, don't punish us because of how we choose to receive our television.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephen Bramell
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Columbia, SC 29210