

I OPPOSE the sale of the satellite to EchoStar because of the negative impact it will have on the future HDTV. By transferring the satellite to EchoStar, there will be less satellite TV competition, especially in the HDTV market since Voom is the only satellite service truly committed to providing the best HDTV at reasonable prices. HDTV is about to have tremendous growth, and EchoStar and DirectTV have very poor service and plans for it. By keeping the satellite from EchoStar (and retaining it for Voom), the FCC will help make the future of this important technology more secure and affordable.

Consider a study just released by In-Stat finding that currently 10 million homes worldwide have HDTV, and that by the end of this year, 15.5 million will have it (50% growth). That study says the number will increase to 52 million by 2009. However, the study says that the number will be considerably less if there is not more content, and affordable content. The study states that the lack of adequate HDTV content has disappointed many consumers, even prompting some to go so far as to return the TV sets.

I know that without VOOM, I would be returning my 2 HDTV sets because of the sad state of HDTV provider options.

Also, consider that the less of a chance HDTV has, the longer it will take the FCC to reclaim the frequencies used by traditional analog OTA television.