

Commissioners of the FCC, I wish to comment in favor of the XM/SIRIUS satellite radio merger. I have been a Sirius subscriber for approximately 13 months, and am very interested in the success of this communication medium. I believe it is in the public interest for these two entities to join resources. To simply see satellite radio as a medium by itself, without competition, is extremely short-sighted on the part of both politicians and broadcasters in general. With the expansion of broadband internet, portable media devices, and HD radio, satellite radio is simply just another form of mass communication that must be seen in light of the larger scope of modern media. This company must compete with those other forms of mass communication, and in doing so will demonstrate market control of consumer prices. If a combined XM/Sirius were to raise prices to the consumer, the consumer would simply find a cheaper supply of electronic media (FM/AM/HD radio are still the public (free) airwaves, internet access is abundant, mp3 players are getting cheaper or are simply built into phones!). There are abundant alternatives to satellite radio. Can the same be said for local television and radio stations that are allowed by this body to be bought by larger and larger media conglomerates?

Bottom line, a stronger, financially sound satellite radio company is better for the consumer, it will foster competition amongst a greater segment of mass media, which in the end, will be good for the consumer.