

I am writing in opposition of the proposed merger of Sirius and XM radio.

As plainly and simply stated by Reps. Bart Stupak (D-MI) and Steven LaTourette (R-OH), "With no viable competition in the national market, a combined XM-Sirius satellite radio monopoly could easily raise prices without losing existing subscribers. Even the promised price caps would provide only temporary protection to consumers, and are an acknowledgment themselves of the monopoly power resulting from a merger. Free over-the-air radio is not enough of a competitor to satellite radio to keep the satellite subscription prices down."

I urge the FCC to non-concur with this proposed merger. The merger is not in the best interest of the United States, our citizens, our free-market economy, or the taxpayer.

Current failings of the two companies involved can be directly traced to their spending outrageous sums of money to capture on-air "talent", such as Howard Stern, and grossly expensive professional sports contracts. If these investments fail to pay off, the millions of customers of satellite radio should not be obliged to help the companies recover by eliminating market competition.

For many customers, including my parents, satellite radio is their only source of over-the-air radio. In some cases, my parents have relied on satellite-based radio as a primary source of news and weather information. A monopoly for satellite radio would almost certainly eliminate selections and choices as the combined monolith would cut back on channels and content to maximize profit.

Any student of Economics 101 understands that competition is the key to efficiency. Again, I urge the FCC to open up those old textbooks and take the prudent actions required to stop this unamerican merger.

Thank for you the opportunity to comment.

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