

Docket 04-207

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*Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary*

1/14/2008 9:05:40 AM - Email Acknowledgement sent to breyers@comcast.net.

Breyers@comcast.net wrote on 1/13/2008 12:05:39 PM :

Dennis Breyer (Breyers@comcast.net) writes:

Mr. Martin,

I had to send you this email after reading your brief interview in today's Parade paper. I think I speak for the vast majority of cable tv viewers out there that would hugely support the ability for customers to customize their cable tv access. I decided 6 months ago to switch to dish because of continual and unacceptable increases in my cable bill. I was with Comcast at the time, and have seen them come in and gobble up several of their competitors to become the only supplier in the Minneapolis, MN market. My wife and I do not watch more than 10-12 channels, and even on dish we are required to buy a specific package, starting at 100 channels. In just about every other service industry, or retail environment, you are free to purchase what you want to satisfy your needs and to fit your budget. Not so in this situation. You are forced to take a product that is not what you necessarily want because options are very limited. Believe me, in today's economy, we would all appreciate a few more dollars in our pockets. If I only want 12 channels, why must I pay for 100? If I do not want 50 Sirius radio stations included in my package, why must I pay for them? If I want the ability to follow Big 10 College Basketball, I must now pay extra money to do so, when I used to be able to watch them for free. I understand this may be the wave of the future in sports, but at least allow me the choice, within my budget, to determine what I want to watch. With the ability to package my own choices, I would pick the 10-12 channels I want, plus the Big Ten package, and probably still be able to see a savings over my current billing. But I would be paying for what I want, not what someone else wants me to have!! Here's a thought: why not allow a new cable/dish company to come in to markets where there is no competition for the current provider, and allow them to offer ONLY custom programming? They would probably pull enough customers away from the large cable/dish providers that rates might come back down to earth, and possibly force the current providers to develop their own custom programming platform, IN THE NAME OF COMPETITION!! Can you imagine the number of people who would switch to this format?? If the cable companies won't do the custom format voluntarily, this could be positioned as the alternative!! Talk about revving up the American competitive spirit overnight!! And, with the new televisions and regulations coming in 2009, what a great time to implement it!

Thank you for your time. I would be very willing to assist with this, or any other similar plan that may be forthcoming, on a volunteer basis. This issue is very near and dear to me, as I know it is for so many others as well.

Sincerely,  
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