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March 17, 2008

FCC
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC:

Good morning. I have written previously to express my support for the XM-Sirius satellite radio merger. I write today because a decision on this matter is so very long overdue, and to reiterate my position in support of the merger.

There are a few salient points I wish to make or reiterate:

First, the magnitude of this merger simply does not warrant this length of deliberation. Much, much larger mergers with vastly more significance to everyday folks like me as well as to the economy (i.e. Exxon-Mobil) have comparatively breezed through the merger approval process.

Second, there is a huge amount of competition to satellite radio, so that allowing the merger does not unfavorably impact competition at all. There is a large amount of terrestrial radio available throughout the country, and there is also a large and ever-increasing amount of internet-based streaming 'radio' content available, most of which is not even subject to federal regulation.

Third, satellite radio allows folks like me to enjoy inexpensive entertainment programming that I cannot get locally. I live in a low-population area of the country and I go hiking, camping, fishing, and boating often. Terrestrial radio signals simply do not reach those areas well at all, and internet-based streams cannot be received there.

Fourth, terrestrial radio in my area does not provide the content I seek. I have tried, but I like content that there simply is insufficient demand in my small area for (i.e. jazz music, big-band music, NHL Hockey, MLB games, NFL football). Even the radio stations (and sometimes the television stations) here do not broadcast many of the games that the networks supply for various cultural reasons. I can respect that, but wish to have the alternative of receiving those games via radio. In addition, despite my best efforts and even working with the local television station engineers on solutions, I simply cannot receive a watchable picture from 2 of the local broadcast television stations, which further reduces my choice of programming.

Finally, if the merger proposal is blocked or simply ignored and allowed to die, it is very likely that at least one of the satellite radio providers will not survive. Thus, taking no action has a similar impact in terms of competition as allowing the merger because there will be only one provider, EXCEPT that the government will have cost millions of people the price of the hardware they've already purchased, plus potentially the cost of new hardware to receive programming from the remaining provider. The 2 companies involved have promised in open letters to the public that they will offer MORE choices if allowed to merge, and also offer lower-cost programming options for those who only want a portion of the programming available.

The present state of the merger review is unacceptably overdue. PLEASE MOVE FORWARD AND ALLOW THE MERGER TO PROCEED. Thank you for your time and consideration of this input. I look forward to the announcement of approval of the XM-Sirius merger.

Sincerely,

Eoin Davis
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