

Thank you for listening to my comments about the proposed NBC-Comcast merger. I am opposed to the merger for the following reason:

When Comcast and NBC joined forces for the Winter Olympics a few months back, consumers were heavily restricted in their access to watch events. It is important to remember that Comcast is more than just a cable service provider, they are also an internet provider, and for many people in my area, they are essentially the only provider. But Comcast and NBC didn't join forces to provide access to people who are not cable tv subscribers. Instead, they did the opposite and colluded to only provide access to events to customers of Comcast who were paid cable subscribers.

For a growing number of people, myself included, the internet is becoming the only source of television programming. There is no physical TV in my apartment. But Comcast and NBC still chose that access to the Olympics was something that could be used to upsell their customers to cable tv. From this, it is clear that when internet providers and television stations collude, the result is a loss for consumers.

As a contrast to the actions of NBC and Comcast, I would like to draw attention to the current NCAA basketball tournament being broadcast by CBS. Since CBS has no partnership with an internet provider, they have no reason to keep games from being broadcast on the internet as a technique to upsell service. The result is cbssports.com where I as a consumer can watch any game of this tournament live, and even switch between games making the whole experience more richer. If CBS were at all involved with the business of broadcasting the content, such as what would happen with NBC if this merger occurs, then it is highly unlikely that I could get such an experience. This is because it is more profitable to try to sell me cable service in order to access the experience.

I sincerely believe that television over the internet is the future of television. However, if internet providers and content providers are part of the same company, then the end result will be less access, higher costs, and perhaps even reduced access to competitors programming. Since NBC is the owner of a high number of content producing stations, the American consumer is in danger of losing internet access to a large percentage of television broadcasts. It is important that this merger not be allowed.

Thank you for your time.