

This would be a terrible deal for consumers.

History is the greatest teacher, and history has shown that Comcast corporation is a terrible company as far as making sure its competitors have access to channels that it controls.

If the recent Versus dispute with DirecTV is any indication, as well as the ongoing dispute over Comcast SportsNet NorthWest, if the Comcast/NBCU merger is approved, carriage disputes like these will become the norm, rather than the exception.

Comcast keeps an iron grip on any content it controls and works as hard as possible to use that content to give its own cable TV service the upper hand. Another good example is Comcast Sportsnet Philadelphia, which is not even available or under carriage negotiation with DirecTV or Dish Network because of the terrestrial loophole. Granted, that loophole has recently been closed, but it will still be a long time before either of those satellite providers see that channel added to their lineups.

Media consolidation is having a terrible effect on our culture. If one corporation gains too much power as both a content distributor and content provider, our culture will simply suffer even more.

I encourage the FCC to recommend that this proposed merger be DENIED regulatory approval.