Comcast admits what everyone in a TWC/Comcast market already knows: there is no competition

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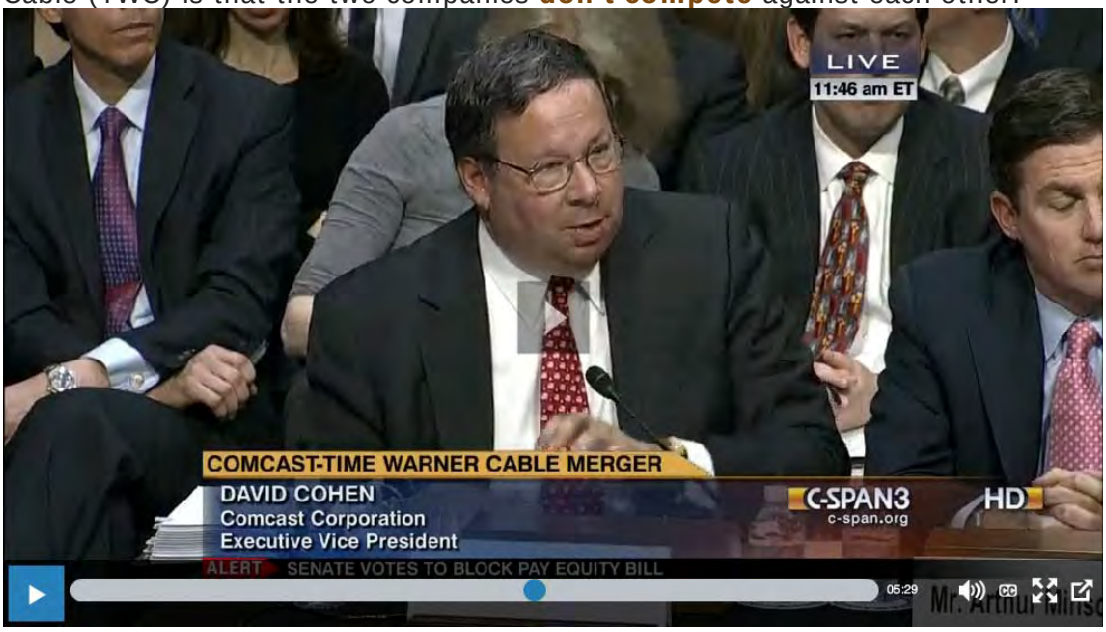
Comcast's biggest reason it's citing to approve its $45.2 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable (TWC) is that the two companies **don't compete** against each other.



As David Cohen, Executive Vice President of Comcast, said during the recent Senate Judiciary Committee hearing:

> South Carolina is one of the states where Time Warner Cable and Comcast both have a presence. It is a state that actually demonstrates the lack of competitive overlap between the two.

In other words, their argument is that there can't be *less* competition because there currently is *no* competition.

I hate to ask the obvious question but: As the two biggest cable providers, ***shouldn't you have been competing against each other***?

Al Franken brought up **the best point of the Senate Judiciary hearing** that in 2010, when Comcast wanted to merge with NBCUniversal, they cited Time-Warner Cable as a specific competitor who could prevent Comcast from setting anti-competitive prices.

> Comcast can't have it both ways. It can't say that the existence of competition among distributors including Time Warner Cable was a reason to approve the NBC deal in 2010 and then turn around a few years later and say that the absence of competition with Time Warner Cable is a reason to approve this deal.

What I'm hearing though is that not only do they want it both ways, but that they've had it both ways even as separate companies.

Or, as Senator Lindsey Graham said in what he thought was a softball question to support Time Warner's argument:

> Graham: “So, generally speaking, cable companies don’t compete with each other, is that what we’re saying?”
> Cohen: "That is correct."

Wait ... isn't this a problem? Is there any way we can go after Comcast and TWC for not competing?

Instead of allowing these companies to merge (because they already don't compete), shouldn't we be working to establish more competition for consumers?

And yes, I understand that there are other technologies such as DirecTV (which Lindsay Graham admits gets bad reception during storms) and online streaming companies (like Netflix, which Comcast already strong-armed into paying twice), but these are different services. Cable is seen as the premier television service. And in the broadband market, there is no competition.

Comcast is admitting that they're a regional monopoly and we're going to give them a broader monopoly?

The hubris is simply stunning.

The only way Comcast could be more (dis)honest is if they admitted that they had already purchased the results of the Congressional hearings.

Oh wait ... David Cohen did say the following to Lindsey Graham during testimony:
“I should just let you take the witness seat, because that’s exactly what I’ve been saying.”

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