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Ohio Association of Convenience Stores

January 15, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The membership of the Ohio Association of Convenience Stores enthusiastically supports the proposed merger of satellite TV carriers EchoStar and DIRECTV and we hope you can do everything possible to see that this merger gets prompt approval from the FCC and Department of Justice.

As business people, we are enthused about the expanded opportunities that would come with the new company's ability to offer broadband services via satellite to every home in Ohio. Every household in our state --- from the urban neighborhoods of Cleveland to the farms of Southern Ohio --- would have easy, affordable access to broadband technology. This would be a free market cure for the problems of the "Digital Divide" and a great opportunity for business and consumers, all without public expense.

The expanded technical capacity of the post-merger company would accelerate the competition EchoStar and DIRECTV have already brought to cable TV companies. In summary, we feel this merger is in the best interests of America and particularly good for Ohio. Your support would be most welcome.

Sincerely,

Josh Sanders
Executive Director
Ohio Association of Convenience Stores

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