

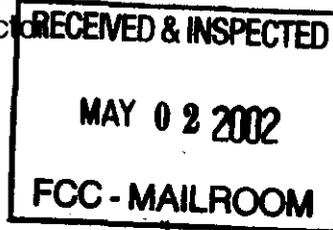


AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND

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Charles Crawford
Executive Director



April 18, 2002

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Reference Docket No. CS 01-348

Dear Mr. Caton:

We at the American Council of the Blind (ACB) have recently been asked to review the proposed merger of EchoStar and DirecTV under current consideration by the FCC (Reference CS Docket #01-348). Please accept the following ex parte commentary from ACB for the consideration of the Commission.

We do not believe that it is in the best interest of our members in particular, but also the American consumer in general, for the FCC to allow the creation of a monopoly and thereby frustrate the potential benefits of competition. In fact, we have heard no compelling evidence that would lead us to believe that the value of the proposed merger overcomes the intrinsic and classic dangers of monopoly.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I remain sincerely,

Charles H. Crawford
Executive Director

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