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STATE OF LOUISIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MICKEY FRITH  
District 47

January 14, 2002

02-726117

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

RECEIVED

MAY 14 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Chairman Powell:

As an State Representative from Abbeville, Louisiana I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV merger and ask that the matter get a thorough, fair and timely review on its merits.

Creation of a new satellite company with the size and technology to match cable TV's offerings in programming choices and high-speed Internet access would benefit our states' consumers and serve as a healthy competitive stimulus for the pay-TV market.

For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the addition of satellite-delivered Internet services represents a competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not served by cable satellite broadband would provide affordable access to the digital future.

In view of its benefits to consumers and support of the free market system, I look on the merger favorably. It is my hope that the FCC will approve it without unnecessary delay or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely,

*Mickey Frith*

Representative Mickey Frith  
District 47

Cc: Congressman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin  
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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02-720119

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PENSIONS & GENERAL LAWS

01-348

February 14, 2002

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MAY 14 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to encourage your favorable consideration of the pending merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics which is pending before the Department of Justice. While there are some who argue that the merger will inhibit competition, I believe that the new company will pave the way for greater competition with the cable companies who control about 80% of the pay television households in the United States. It is my understanding that the pending transaction will be subject to thorough and comprehensive review by the Federal Communications Commission and by state and federal antitrust authorities to ensure that it is in the public interest.

The new company will also be able to reach additional markets because of the programming and administrative efficiencies realized by the proposed merger. I believe that the merger will enhance competitiveness and service in both rural and urban areas. Direct broadcast satellite TV offered by the newly merged company will be able to provide interactive educational programs in many schools. This is just another example of permitting a viable competitor to deliver more program choices and improved services.

I encourage you to review the facts and hope that you can support the merger.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KLARICH  
State Senator

DJK/pw

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# AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

GROVER G. NORQUIST

PRESIDENT

January 4, 2002

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. S.W.  
Washington DC 20554

*OK-3/18*  
*02-20118*  
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MAY 14 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

While both parties debate the shape of a government sponsored economic stimulus package, the free enterprise system has one ready to go in the communications industry with the proposed merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

This merger would stimulate the markets for both pay-TV and consumer broadband services by creating a new company capable of making consumers an enriched offer. The merged companies could use their combined spectrum to carry local channels in more than twice the number of markets where the two separate companies each carry them today, increasing satellite's competitive appeal.

In broadband services, the new EchoStar would break new ground with nationwide delivery of broadband services by satellite at uniform prices affordable to the average American family. Any home could receive high-speed Internet and other broadband services, urban, rural or suburban. The Digital Divide could close quickly.

Satellite-delivered broadband would give consumers some badly needed competitive options to cable modems or DSL service from the regional Bells. This merger would raise the ante of the competition. It's sadly ironic that opponents of competition would hide behind the smokescreen of antitrust policy as they try to block this merger. They would cynically have you consider the satellite TV market in a vacuum and ignore its role as a competitor with cable in the larger pay-TV market. Yes, EchoStar and DIRECTV represent 90% of the satellite-TV market. Much more important, their combined market share represents only 17% of the pay-TV market, compared to 80% for cable.

In today's technologically charged communications industry, it's clear that competitive choice has to come through competition across technologies. The new EchoStar would expand that kind of competition and provide a market-based competition for the cable companies and Bells. A timely approval of this merger without burdensome conditions is clearly in the public interest.

Onward,



Grover G. Norquist

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DOCKET # 01-346

COMMISSIONER COPPS

**Madeline Currier  
Early Childhood Consultant  
465 Arlington Heights Road  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007**

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02-025860

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MAY 14 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 21, 2001

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps::

In 1996 the Federal Communications Commission adopted educational TV show rules that required TV broadcasters to air at least three hours of educational shows for children each week, beginning September 1997. Educational material was to be designed for youngsters to serve their intellectual, cognitive, social and emotional needs. The programs to be aired between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and specifically designed to educate.

A study of Elk Grove Village, Illinois , a suburb of Chicago, population revealed a need for a preschool program to help youngsters from non-English speaking families acquire English language skills. A solution to this need was the "Play & Language" program. The program introduced preschool children and parents, from homes where English was not the primary language, to basic English and educational concepts

Play & Language meets the intellectual, cognitive, emotional and most important the social needs to service the preschoolers and brings the parent into the system. Social interaction is the most important step for a child learning a new language..

The tools are play and movement. Games, books, drama, music and arts & crafts based on educational concepts reinforce the concept being learned.

To partner with a television station, or video producer interested in serving children and community is my goal. To my knowledge this needed service is not offered in the media.

In 1998 five million preschool children started school lacking English language skills, they could not keep up with the other classmates and were segregated by being taken out of class to be taught English in their primary language and somehow expected to edge into English.

[www.play-language.org.com/](http://www.play-language.org.com/)

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The window of opportunity to learn a new language is between two and five (sometime up to eight) years of age. Preschoolers being introduced to English have an opportunity to come into the main stream. These children hold the future of our world in their hands.

Workshops have been presented in colleges, preschools and daycare centers for Administrators, teachers, daycare staff and volunteer helpers. I feel if this were available on video or television the benefits could be tremendous..

“Play & Language” is a structured English immersion format. It was written as a program and introduced in 1989. 2000 to 2001 it was edited, printed into a curriculum workbook and a copyright obtained.

Can you advise me on who I may approach to further Play & Language?. Are you the person I contact or should I contact or someone else. If requested I can send a lesson from Play & Language for review..

Thank your for your time, I would like to hear from you after the holidays. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Madeline Currier  
Early Childhood Consultant

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell:  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

***Madeline Currier  
Early Childhood Consultant  
465 Arlington Heights Road  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007***

About the author:

Member of the Mount Prospect Montessori Study Group founding the Northwest Suburban Montessori School in September 1964.

Early Childhood Coordinator for the Elk Grove Park District from 1971 through 1998.

Co-hosted the "Ralph the Robot Show" on cable television Channel 6.

Contributed to The Giant Encyclopedia of Theme Activities for Children 2-5.

Member of Association for Children's Education International. (A.C.E.I.) and on Speakers Bureau for Association for Children's Education International. Association Supervision & Curriculum Development, GOAEACY, NAECY.

Presented a twelve week session of "Play & Language" at Meadows Community Services in 1999 for Hispanic preschool children and parents. Applied for and received a grant from Wal-Mart 's "Make A Difference Day" budget for Meadows Community Services.

"Play & Language" workshops were presented in 2000 and 2001 at McHenry Community College in Crystal Lake, Illinois

"Play & Language" has been requested as supplemental material for a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade multi-level class, this is in a suburb of Paris. It is my understanding that next year all kindergarten children in France will be required to take English language instructions.

In January 2002 I will be servicing the Police Community Resource Center and Clinic in Rolling Meadows, servicing preschoolers. The goal is to introduce the children to English and basic educational concepts prior to beginning their formal education.

**Madeline Currier**  
**Early Childhood Consultant**  
**465 Arlington Heights Road**  
**Elk Grove Village, IL 60007**

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