

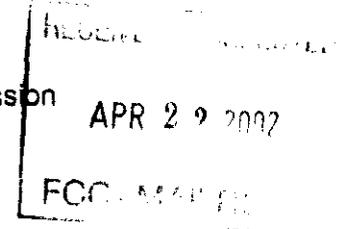
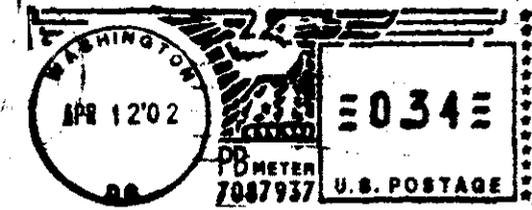
C O U N C I L F O R



**CITIZENS  
AGAINST  
GOVERNMENT  
WASTE**

1301 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

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





**CITIZENS  
AGAINST  
GOVERNMENT  
WASTE**

02-P27657  
01-348

**Thomas A. Schatz**  
*President*

April 12, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of Citizens Against Government Waste to express support of the proposed merger of satellite TV carriers EchoStar and DirecTV.

With the rapid expansion of technology, the government is trying to keep pace in making the latest developments available in all parts of the country. Unfortunately, due to burdensome regulations and other obstacles, the government's methods have proved to be ineffective and costly.

For example, federal funding for programs aimed at closing the so-called "digital divide" reached an all-time high in fiscal 2001. In fiscal 2002, the government continues to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on such programs. For example, Congress appropriated \$700.5 million for the Education Technology Block Grant program, \$32.5 million for Department of Education's Community Technology Centers Program, and \$15 million for the Department of Commerce's Technology Opportunities Program. The merger would help eliminate government interference in this emerging market place.

Through this merger, consumers in the cattle country of Montana or the under-served neighborhoods of our big cities would have immediate access to broadband. It would be provided at the same affordable uniform price available to suburbanites, many of who already have competitive options for broadband services. In addition, the merger will also provide the benefits of a new level of competition in both pay-TV and broadband services. Currently, cable TV companies hold 80 percent of the pay-TV market, while the regional Bell companies control 86 percent of the DSL broadband market. EchoStar and DirecTV would add to their local programming and be able to compete more effectively in both markets.

This is clearly a merger that would actively serve the public interest. I urge you to let the free enterprise system work and approve this merger promptly and without extensive conditions.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Schatz*

1301 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-467-5300

**House of Representatives**  
STATE OF IOWA  
JANET PETERSEN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
1346 47<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50311



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Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554



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**Janet Petersen**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**House of Representatives**  
State of Iowa  
*Seventy-Ninth General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**COMMITTEES**  
Commerce  
Education  
Local Government

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Economic Development

02-P27653  
01-348

April 10, 2002

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I'm writing to encourage your support for the merger proposal between EchoStar and DirecTV.

The merger benefits consumers and brings more choices and solutions to the general public. Hopefully, it will end the digital divide that we hear so much about in Iowa.

Video, voice, high-speed internet, and data transfer packages are what consumers want. These packages would be available, at a reasonable price, if these companies can increase their efficiencies and better respond to market demands.

Instead of leaving consumers with perhaps no access or limited access, a proposal like this would deliver competitive technology to even the most remote locations, instantly allowing those small businesses and individuals to compete in the global marketplace.

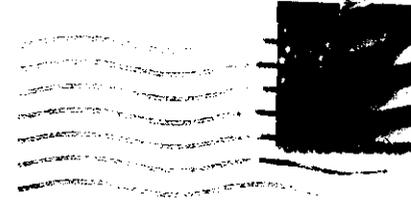
I hope you approve the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Petersen".

Janet Petersen  
State Representative

**RICHARD E. MYERS**  
MINORITY LEADER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



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Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554



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02-P27643



**RICHARD E. MYERS**  
MINORITY LEADER

STATE OF IOWA  
OFFICE OF THE MINORITY LEADER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

01-348

April 9, 2002

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I'm writing to you today to request your support for the merger proposal between EchoStar and DirecTV. I believe that the merger proposal between EchoStar and DirecTV has the ability to provide a wholesale improvement in the quality of life for many rural Americans.

Satellite powered internet access would provide consumers with better options, not to mention a competitive force, to their local phone company or sadly, no service offerings at all. It's this kind of market jump-start that will propel our small businesses and residents to a higher level of performance and satisfaction with their technology choices.

One of the biggest obstacles for rural Iowans, and all rural residents of our country, is the digital divide that keeps technology in the hands of urban residents. Today, broadband technology is proving to be one of the most versatile and powerful applications in the marketplace. Increasingly, people are using the internet to schedule appointments, go shopping, take classes, and of course communicate with friends and family.

Instead of asking for handouts or taxpayer-financing, EchoStar and DirecTV have crafted a merger plan that will combine and effectively multiply their use of broadcast spectrum. This newly efficient satellite use will result in better offers and pricing for customers and prospective customers, and even more importantly, it will mean the delivery of advanced services such as high-speed internet to even the most remote parts of the country.

I urge your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Richard E. Myers  
Minority Leader



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Theodore W. Kheel  
Park Avenue Tower  
75 East 55th Street  
New York, NY 10022

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The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554



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**Theodore W. Kheel**  
Park Avenue Tower  
75 East 55th Street  
New York, NY 10022

02-P27639

01-348

April 8, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As one who has dedicated decades to the cause of constructive relationships between labor and management and, more recently, to worker education and training through distance learning, I write to you urging your strongest consideration of support of the merger between EchoStar and DIRECTV.

With plant closings and rising unemployment back in the headlines, I am hopeful the country will re-focus on the critical difference between permanent employment and permanent employability. Once again it has become apparent that no company can guarantee permanent employment to every employee. On the other hand, if my membership on the Board of Directors of the Association of Joint Labor-Management Educational Programs has taught me anything, it is that employees can guarantee their continued *employability* by continuing their education and updating their skills.

In the 1990's, our much-discussed economic expansion failed to protect the downsizing of hundreds of thousands of mostly industrial workers. Fortunately, we have seen an encouraging development that began in the mid '80's of joint labor-management educational and training programs which employers as well as employees have found beneficial.

The big obstacle is logistics. It sounds ideal to take 50 assembly line workers and re-train them as computer technicians. But can the company spare them off the assembly line for a few hours each day? And think about the practical problems of finding a time when 50 individuals could attend a class together on their own time.

Online distance learning education is a powerful solution to this problem. And widespread access to high-speed "broadband" Internet technology would make the solution a practical reality for hundreds of thousands of workers.

That kind of access is now within our grasp thanks to the proposed merger of satellite TV carriers EchoStar and DIRECTV. While the merger offers numerous other benefits including a new level of competition that will benefit pay-TV customers in every market across the country, I am happy to support the merger just on the basis of what it could do for distance learning.

By combining both their broadcast spectrum and the resources they've dedicated to launching another generation of satellites, EchoStar and DIRECTV together would have the capacity to offer high-speed Internet service via satellite to every home and small business in America at one competitive nationwide price. No wires. No need to live within the territory of a cable TV company that offers broadband service. No need to live within two miles of a telephone company central office in order to get high-speed "DSL" Internet service.

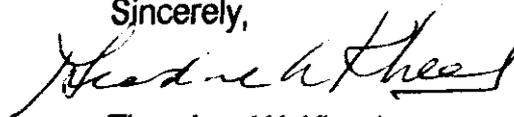
Small companies could offer employees interactive distance learning on premises without investing in elaborate teleconferencing equipment. Better still, any employee could use his or her home broadband connection to take self-paced courses over the TV. This brings new meaning to the concept of educational television.

Satellite Internet service from the new EchoStar would not be the only source of broadband. But in many homes around the country, notably in rural areas and under-served urban neighborhoods, satellite delivery could be the only practical alternative. Bridging this Digital Divide between wealthy, wired 'haves' and poor and rural Internet 'have-nots' is a crucial and necessary step toward a world with permanently *employable* workers.

The EchoStar-DIRECTV partnership represents an educational opportunity that translates into greater employability for millions of working Americans. It is rare when a corporate merger strengthens job security, but this one does and, in my view, it deserves your support.

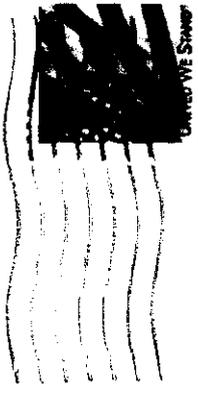
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Theodore W. Kheel".

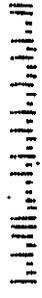
Theodore W. Kheel

**Ralph Hicks**  
21 Lyford Rd.  
Spencer, MA 01562-2617



Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington DC 20554

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02-P27648  
01-348

April 9, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket #01-348

Dear Chairman Powell:

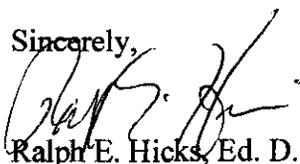
This letter is regarding the pending merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics Direct TV currently in front of the U.S. Committee on the Judiciary. This merger is very important to people in our rural area.

As a selectman, I am increasingly aware of the above inflation rate increases of cable television by our local carrier, Charter Communications. Along with the monthly reminder of my own ever escalating cable bill I continue to receive complaints from various members of the community.

It is my hope that this merger will help to stimulate price pressure on companies such as Charter Communications. This should be a win-win situation for the consumer in that the merger should provide superior programming and price competition. It should also allow for high-speed internet access to every household.

Therefore, I hope you will support the merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics Direct TV.

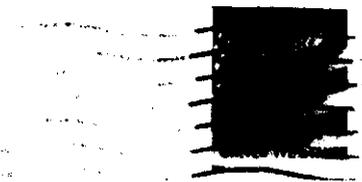
Sincerely,



Ralph E. Hicks, Ed. D.  
Selectman, Town of Spencer  
21 Lyford Rd.  
Spencer, MA 01562

**House of Representatives**  
STATE OF IOWA  
**STEVEN WARNSTADT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
3301 Chambers  
Sioux City, IA 51104

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Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554



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02-P27641

**Steven Warnstadt**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
*Second District*  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221  
e-mail - swarnst@legis.state.ia.us



01-348

**ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER**

**COMMITTEES**

- Administration & Rules
- Appropriations
- Ethics, *Ranking Member*
- Local Government
- Transportation

**HOME ADDRESS**  
3301 Chambers Street  
Sioux City, Iowa 51104  
Home: (712) 258-3705

**House of Representatives**  
State of Iowa  
*Seventy-Ninth General Assembly*  
**STATEHOUSE**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Transportation, Infrastructure & Capitals

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 9, 2002

Dear Chairman Powell,

I wanted to take a moment and express my opinion on the merger proposal between Hughes and EchoStar. Technology is moving faster and faster, and improvements in the quality of products offered to consumers also increases rapidly. Innovation is the keystone of the growth that we've seen, especially when it comes to broadband.

I think the merger proposal between EchoStar and Hughes is innovative as well. Instead of sparring with each other while consumers in the hinterlands while away the hours with their AM radios, the two satellite providers have signed off on an innovative partnership that would bring high-speed internet access and a wide menu of pay-TV offerings to the often forgotten rural population in America. As I understand, a "new EchoStar" has promised a nationwide pricing plan that would leave no one area footing the bill for others.

I encourage you to do everything possible to move this merger quickly along the approval process.

Sincerely,

Steve Warnstadt  
State Representative

House of Representatives

STATE OF IOWA  
REBECCA REYNOLDS  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
301 Main Street, Box 116  
Bonaparte, Iowa 52620



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Mr. Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington D.C. 20554

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**Rebecca Reynolds**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
*Ninety-Fourth District*  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221  
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**HOME ADDRESS**  
301 Main Street, Box 280  
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Home: (319) 592-3246



**House of Representatives**  
State of Iowa  
*Seventy-Ninth General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

02-P27644  
01-348

**COMMITTEES**  
Human Resources  
Local Government  
State Government

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Economic Development

April 9, 2002

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

It is with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm that I write to lend my support to the EchoStar/Hughes Merger. I ask that you also look favorably upon this progressive and competitive step to provide enhanced services to the people of Iowa especially in the rural areas I represent.

This will greatly improve the quality of life and opportunities for the rural consumers all across Iowa. These consumers will have the opportunity to tune into learning programs, as well as being able to access a great diversity of channels, and some may even view their local news clearly for the first time if the merger of EchoStar and Hughes Electronics meets with approval.

One of the biggest obstacles for rural Iowans, and all rural residents of our country, is the digital divide that keeps technology in the hands of urban residents. Today, broadband technology is proving to be one of the most versatile and powerful applications in the marketplace. Increasingly, people are using the Internet to schedule appointments, go shopping, take classes, and of course communicate with friends and family.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to further discuss this with me. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours for a better Iowa,

Rep. Rebecca Reynolds