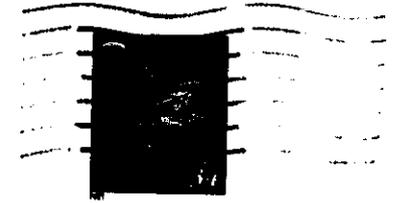
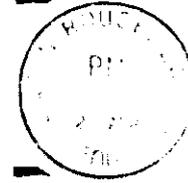




JOHN C. "JUBA" DIEZ
REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 09
42126 Hwy. 931
Gonzales, Louisiana 70737

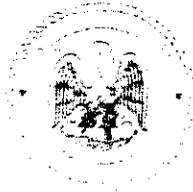


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CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH STREET SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554



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02-P31182
Pocket no:

42126 Highway 931
Gonzales, Louisiana 70737
Telephone: (225) 644-8608
Home: (225) 622-1288
Fax: (225) 647-6068

Chairman, Transportation, Highways and Public Works

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

01-348

April 2, 2002

JOHN C. "JUBA" DIEZ

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

RE: SUPPORT OF PENDING MERGER OF DIRECT AND ECHOSTAR SATELLITE SYSTEMS
DOCKET #01-348, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Powell:

As an elected official from 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.

The Louisiana legislature is currently in special session to discuss ways to promote economic development throughout our state. This merger will aid economic development in our state tremendously. The creation of a new satellite company with the size and technology to effectively compete with cable television companies would benefit our states' consumers and serve as a healthy stimulus for the pay-TV market.

Another result of this merger will be that the consumers across the United States will have access to local broadcast channels with digital-quality television picture and CD-quality sound in every one of the 210 television markets nationwide, specifically all 8 markets in Louisiana. For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the addition of local broadcast stations and satellite-delivered Internet services represents a real competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not served by cable, nationwide pricing and 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 the FCC will approve it without unnecessary delays or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely,

John C. "Juba" Diez
Representative
District 59

Cc: Attorney General John Aschcroft
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Congressman Billy Tauzin, Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

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