



CITY OF RAYNE



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

RECEIVED & INDEXED
MAY 03 2002
FCC MAILROOM



ORIGINAL



CITY OF RAYNE

02-P31007
Docket No:
01-348

RECEIVED

MAY 3 2002

FCC MAIL ROOM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 15, 2002

JAMES J. PETITJEAN
MAYOR

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington DC 20554
REF DOCKET: 01-348

ALDERMEN

Dear Chairman Powell:

WILBERT STELLY
MAYOR PRO-TEM

I encourage you to support the pending merger between EchoStar and Hughes Electronics. As the mayor of a growing rural city, I can see the benefits that would be afforded to many of our residents.

ANN DOMINGUE WASHINGTON
DISTRICT 1

The merger between EchoStar and Hughes will bring a virtual third line, similar to the bundled offerings of video and data by cable, into the homes that cable has deemed too expensive to serve. The merger creates the economies of scale necessary to offer competitively priced, high-speed Internet access via satellite to my rural areas, especially businesses and schools that do not have access to cable modem service or DSL.

JUDE "BUTCH" ABSHIRE
DISTRICT 2

I have been impressed with EchoStar's commitment to a nationwide pricing plan. Both DISH Network and DIRECTV have offered programming on a uniform, nationwide pricing basis since the launch of small dish satellite TV service in 1994. This pricing structure extends the benefits of competing with cable companies in urban areas to those who live in the most remote areas. It is a policy that has benefited rural Americans, and the merged company has stated on the record that it plans to continue this nationwide pricing structure in the future.

GERARD "JERRY" ARCENEUX
DISTRICT 3

The people of Louisiana have benefited from the availability of satellite service, and they look forward to the benefits that a combined EchoStar and Hughes can offer. For many rural Americans, this merger offers the most realistic chance of bringing an affordable high-speed Internet access service to their homes.

GERALD L. FOREMAN
DISTRICT 4

ROBERT "BOBBY" HEBERT
CITY CLERK

I urge you to fully support the merger and enable everyone to have the same opportunities.

Sincerely,

LARRY T. RICHARD
CITY ATTORNEY

CITY OF RAYNE, LOUISIANA

James J. Petitjean
Mayor

No. of Copies re: 1
List ABCDE