

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Today, I am writing as a current DishNetwork satellite subscriber who would strongly urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. This combination of two of US satellite providers will allow the merged companies to provide improved picture quality, additional choices in channels, diverse programming, broadband Internet access, and High Definition television technologies in accord with the latest FCC directives.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in the South Bend DMA, in addition to every other market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a stronger alternative to cable in the Michian community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Roland Fox
4041 Sampson Street
South Bend, IN 46614