

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including access to local channels, and broadband.

Presently I am unable to receive local channels in the Gainesville, FL area and thus have no access to local hurricane information or other local weather information. I presently receive weather from Atlanta, GA - a few hundred miles distant from my home.

As important will be an alternative to dial-up Internet access. Today I use a local ISP and a dial-up account connecting in the high 20k speed using local telephone lines. We have no DSL, cable or other high speed capabilities - and probably never will in our rural location. Many Web sites will not even load at this low speed.

We need local access for safety and sure would like to be able to use Internet broadband like most of the USA.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson  
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High Springs, FL 32643