

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

As a current subscriber of satellite TV I'd like to voice my vehement opposition to the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. Such a merger will create a satellite monopoly which will negatively sway the behavior of the merged company and ultimately will be bad for the consumer. My belief is that Healthy competition in the broadcast distribution market will always require at least two major players in every delivery medium. Thus, two or more for satellite deliver, two or more for cable delivery, etc. Without such "in medium" competition, there will be little incentive for a merged corporation to provide the consumer with the best cost value and highest performance for the given medium. Even though this merger has not yet been approved I've already seen the side effects. For me cable is not an option. I currently subscribe to EchoStar's Dish Network and in the past I was able to leverage my ability to switch over to DirecTV as motivation to them to always treat me right as a customer. Of late, I've noticed that Dish Network is not as interested in keeping my business as much as they were in the past. With this year's subscription to their service nearly up, I checked with Dish to see what competitive packages they could offer up which compared to the incentive packages offered by DirecTV. This year Dish's response was to not offer up anything and to make passing reference to the pending merger with a closing quote of "it will all be the same anyway". That lack of motivation and that simple lifeless statement makes it very clear to me as to what this merger would ultimately provide "us", the consumer.

Sincerely,
Roger Tielman
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Bainbridge Island, WA 98110