

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive. I will shortly be moving to an area of town that is not serviced by cable. When I move, the only way I will be able to receive local channels is through an antenna. We will have to have two cable lines running throughout our house to support having an attic antenna or we will have to have set top antennas. The cable company has no plans to service our area and because of this we have no high quality reception option for local channels.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. The only broadband option we will have at our new house is DSL provided by the phone company, and we have no way of knowing if that will even be available until the phone company runs a line to the house. I believe that this merger would greatly increase competition and freedom of choice in my area.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Ashley Ulwelling
930 N Maple Grove Rd D301
Boise, ID 83704