

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 NOT support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will decrease video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a monopoly in satellite choices. This will ultimately raise prices once they no longer have to compete in the satellite market and only have to compete with land based cable companies.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet (using a land based cable company), but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will NOT result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. That segment of business has lots of competition and lots of choices already which help to keep prices down from DSL, to Cable modems, and even satellite. It is that competition that keeps it a healthy marketplace.

I appreciate your consideration of my views and hope that you don't allow this merger to take place.

Sincerely,

Craig Brown
1065 Galston Drive
Folsom, CA 95630