

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 not to 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, stifle competition, raise prices of services, and there will be a decrease in quality of customer service.

Even though the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators, given the bankruptcy of some cable companies, and the current merger trends in the cable company, the competition will actually decrease.

Currently I am paying \$31.99 for a basic package of programming. A similar package with cable will cost me about \$15.00 more. A similar package with Echostar would be comparable with what I am paying now.

However, what would be the incentive for the merged company Echostar/Directv not to raise the prices to, say, \$40.00? Yes, it would be lower than cable, but I would be paying more than before, and thus the customer is indeed hurt.

If the proposed merger proceeds, what incentive is there to treat your customers with dignity, since they may take the attitude of 'take it or leave it' as it already happens with only one cable company in the Dallas area.

For these reasons, I urge you to not approve this merger, as the American customer would be most hurt by this merger.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

J Gutierrez
4777 cedar springs rd
Dallas, TX 75219