

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 DirectTV, 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 increase prices and decrease choice for current DBS subscribers. With the acquisition of PrimeStar and USSB in the mid-1990's, DirectTV and DishNetwork are the only two satellite providers left in the market.

Should this merger be allowed to go ahead, there will be absolutely no competition in the DBS market. Some may say that the larger C-band dishes are the alternative to a new DBS satellite megacompany, however I submit that the selling point of DBS is the smaller size of the DBS dish and simplicity of mounting it once in a fixed position, both of which cannot be said for the larger moveable C and K-band dishes. Also, the larger dishes are usually over one meter in diameter thereby allowing regulation by home owner associations, landlords and other local regulatory bodies. The only other alternative for those wanting DBS will be to go with a quasi-legal •Grey Market• Canadian DBS.

I currently have over four different broadband services available to me, so one more service provider doesn't affect me or the other rest of the U.S. population that have more than one choice of broadband access providers. Also, I feel that basic dialup connectivity to the internet (which I currently use) is still a viable alternative to broadband internet access and will be for the foreseeable future.

I appreciate your consideration of my views and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lewis Stupak
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STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30083