

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. Due to the physical location of my property, I am unable to get a 'decent' signal from a number of my local stations, yet they refuse to grant me a waiver to receive network TV from DIRECTV due to their dependence on local advertising dollars. I understand and appreciate their concerns, but in the meantime, I have no way of seeing the programming their networks provide. I feel this merger will greatly alleviate the concerns of local TV stations in regard to getting the most from their advertisers' dollars, and allow people in rural areas such as myself the opportunity to see and enjoy quality reception of their local TV stations.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Mark Dumas
7060 Prairie Rd
Ridgeway, WI 53582