

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

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. I am concerned about the cable operators inherent barriers to entry that keep competition out for delivery of information, entertainment, and education.

I do not currently have broadband access to the Internet, and I believe 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.

This is something I feel very strongly about and I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Brent Sitton
2821 Fortuna Dr
Austin, TX 78738