

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 stop 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.

As an example, I recently discovered that DIRECTV had changed its programming without any prior notification to its customers. Unfortunately, the cable providers in my area have very bad reception (the main reason I decided to purchase a DIRECTV system). This makes ECHOSTAR the only alternative choice available to me, if I no longer want to remain a DIRECTV customer.

It is my belief that the merger of these two companies will decrease the choices a consumer has when trying to find an alternative to the cable industry.

Please don't allow this to occur!

Sincerely,

Rhidian Maehl
1776 N. Stanton Place Apt #6
Long Beach, CA 90804