

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 be a great success if rules are put in place to prevent the merged company from becoming complacent just like cable has done. I switched from cable to satellite because of poor service, poor quality of signals and constant rate increases. If you allow the merged company to fall into the same pattern only consumers will loose. If the merged company keeps prices low, quality high and continues to offer new services as they have been doing, this will be a great thing for consumers.

The only complaint I do have about the merger is the promise of broadband internet via satellite. I've seen both products and they both stink. 56K dialup is slower but much more realiable and cheaper. In my mind this should not be a selling point for the merger! Although I am a proponent for the merger I don't think they will be doing many people a great service by offering internet access.

If implemented correctly the merger will allow the company to compete on a more level playing field with cable. I have argued many times against people who think the merger will create a monopoly. These people think that EchoStar and DirectTV compete against each other, I disagree and argue that they compete against cable.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Robert Evege
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Highlands Ranch, CO 80126