

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 vehemently AGAINST the proposed merger of EchoStar and Hughes DIRECTV.

The abuses of the cable industry, by virtue of its weakly regulated monopoly status, has seen congressional inquiries, an enormous volume of customer complaints, continual criticism and even comedy routines centered around the poor quality of service and relentless price increases, and new legislation which has done nothing to alleviate the problems inherent in having the service provided by a monopoly.

With the advent of satellite TV, and the less than a year old easing of restrictions on satellite retransmission of local broadcasts, cable finally has a couple of serious competitors.

However, the only two players in this new field are attempting to merge. It is outrageous that the government could even consider for a moment that the consumer would benefit by the cessation of all competition in this arena. With the elimination of one of the only two viable competitors to local cable, the consumer can expect only that minor improvements will follow, as competition is restricted only between the cable monopoly and the satellite monopoly. A steady increase in costs will inevitably follow as well.

In an age of mergers and acquisition frenzy, it is important to note that capitalism only functions in a competitive market. It is what fuels innovation, improvement, and drives the cost to benefit ratio for the consumer.

DO NOT APPROVE THIS MERGER. It is bad for business, and bad for the public.

Sincerely,

Rocky Rockmaker
10051 Bevis Avenue
Mission Hills, CA 91345