

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 proposed merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The primary reason is access to high definition television (HDTV) via satellite, which I do not now have. Due to existing satellite positions and bandwidth limitations, it is not feasible for either EchoStar or DirecTv alone to provide me with HDTV programming. Although I am able to obtain local (terrestrial) HDTV programming, there are only four or five major network HDTV channels, and this will not change significantly in the future, if at all. Post merger, I would have access to a wide variety of HDTV programming.

I also believe the merger will increase my video and broadband choices.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Thomas Horrall  
26 Bowers Rd  
Harvard, MA 01451