

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing to urge you to support the proposed merger between Hughes Electronics and EchoStar Communications. I believe the merger holds tremendous potential for my company in Fenton, MI which sells the DIRECTV satellite TV service. The new company will offer a more attractive product to consumers, and this will mean more business for my company.

The majority of my customers are not able to subscribe to their local broadcast channels via satellite. This is the case because DIRECTV does not have sufficient spectrum to provide all local channels in every one of the country's 210 local television markets. Currently, DIRECTV offers local broadcast channels in only 43 markets. The merger will allow the combined company to reclaim the spectrum currently used for the duplicate broadcasting of approximately 500 identical TV channels. This will increase capacity and allow the new company to serve all television markets in the U.S. This will allow me to offer my customers a more competitive alternative to cable in the near future.

If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide consumers in my area an affordable high-speed Internet access service via satellite. There are a small number of customers in my area who do enjoy broadband access to the Internet via cable modem and DSL service. For them, this merger will result in increased competition in the broadband market, potentially driving down prices of DSL and cable providers. However, the majority of the homes, schools and businesses in my area are beyond the reach of cable and DSL wires. For these customers, the new company may be their only chance of getting an affordable high-speed Internet service.

This merger will increase satellite TV's ability to respond competitively to the roll out of digital cable, forcing cable companies to respond in a variety of ways including accelerating their digital upgrades and extending their wires out to reach those customers they currently do not serve. The resulting expansion in digital capabilities across the board will increase competition generally, will drive hardware upgrades for consumers, and drive retail traffic and sales nationwide.

High Definition Television (HDTV) was supposed to be available to the American public today, but consumers are still waiting for broadcasters and cable operators to provide the service. HUGHES and EchoStar have pledged to use some of the spectrum made available by their merger to increase their HDTV channel offerings, to at least twelve HDTV channels. I am excited because greater availability of HDTV programming will translate into more sales opportunities for my HDTV televisions and related products.

DIRECTV will not be able to compete effectively with the cable companies in the future unless it has the ability to match their technological innovations. The merger will allow the new company to provide HDTV, Interactive TV, and near video-on-demand. The other benefits outlined above are important, but these are the most important ones for me. Please support the EchoStar-HUGHES merger, and help bring these advanced television services to consumers sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Rick Moller  
2815 Silver Lake Road  
Fenton, MI 48430