

The Georgia Conference of Black Mayors

C. Jack Ellis, President
Mayor, City of Macon

*SECRETARY'S
OFFICE*

July 27, 2002

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The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: FCC Docket No. 01-348

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Georgia Conference of Black Mayors (GCBM), I am writing to express our strong support for approval of the pending EchoStar Communications Corporation and Hughes Electronics Corporation merger.

If approved, GCBM believes the merger will result in better services at lower costs in the cities and towns we represent as well as those across the nation. It is imperative that our communities have access to the latest information technology and the widest range of information possible, whether in their communities or in a metropolitan area far away.

Further, we believe this new company will be a stronger competitor to cable TV by offering local TV coverage in all 210 markets. Importantly, the new company would have the available spectrum to offer greater diversity in programming.

Taken together, we believe this merger will contribute significantly to closing the digital divide by making communications technology available for all of our citizens.

Accordingly, on behalf of the 26 communities our members represent, I urge you to act expeditiously to approve the merger.

Sincerely,

C. Jack Ellis
C. Jack Ellis
Mayor

Macon, Georgia
President, Georgia Conference of Black Mayors

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cc: The Honorable Max Cleland
The Honorable Zell Miller
Georgia Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Eddie Bernice-Johnson, Chairperson, Congressional Black Caucus
The Honorable Marilyn Murrell, President, National Conference of Black Mayors
The Honorable Wellington Webb
FCC Docket No. 01-348