

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to express my support for the Echostar/Hughes (DirectTV) merger. I own an Echostar dish in an area where local TV services are not available (Idaho Falls, ID). As a result, I very rarely watch local channels. I realize that this hurts local advertisers. However, I will not switch service to a cable company because their programming is inferior to DISHNetwork's service. In addition, the Echostar/Hughes merger would enable me to purchase additional premium programming packages (such as the NFL sports package).

Because the satellite television providers I mention here are in direct competition with cable television providers, it is inconceivable that a merger could lead to anti-competitive practices. Rather, local advertisers and secondary market consumers would benefit from the merger. I wholeheartedly support the merger.

Sincerely,

Doug Whitmire  
280 I St.  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402