

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

August 20, 2002

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will create a monopoly for those of us in Rural America. This would leave people like myself with no choice but this monopoly. I can not receive local TV and cable will never arrive at my location.

Let me tell you about their competitive nature. I am having a receiver problem. This receiver will only receive their signal which I must pay for. I had to pay for this receiver, for the privilege of paying them, for their signal. At least cable would supply this equipment without charge. They also would replace or repair this equipment without charge. This seems fair since it can only be use to purchase their service.

When contacted about this problem they offered to sell me new equipment. This was at twice the price they would sell to a new subscriber. I told them I would have to look at the offers presently being made by Directv before deciding. They said to go ahead and view my options but they would soon own that service also. They went on to add that if I dropped their service they would never take me back as a Dish Network (EchoStat) customer.

If allowed to merge this situtation will only get worse. Do not believe by merging we will ever receive local TV channels in every market in the US. Not in your lifetime or your grand-children's lifetime, if you live in Rural America. If you wish to believe this, ask them to issue a date for this service to be completed. Ask them for a bond with this date and penalties per day if not completed. By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger leaving us in Rural America with no choices. In regard to high-speed internet service with today's technologies Rural America does not have much hope. But In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to vote against this merger. This in my opinion is the best thing for us in Rural America now.

Sincerely,
John R. Sudol

Sincerely,

John Sudol
RR 1 Box 95
Pennsboro, WV 26415