

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 pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

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

The biggest reason for agreeing to any merger is what benefit does it provide the public, if any. Thi Merger provides a huge benefit to me and countless others accross the US that do not have high-speed internet available to them, and some do not even have copper lines sufficant to keep them from being dropped due to carrier loss.

My business rely's on the Interent and enhancements to our website our being delayed as high-spped internet would be required, but it is not available alll across the US.

Please consider the benefit it would have not only to it's subscribers but other high-speed providers would have to drop their rates making High-Speed internet an afforable option for all.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Butt Richard  
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Federal Way, WA 98023