

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to not support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will decrease video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area. However, if these two companies merge, I will be in the same boat I was when I was a subscriber to Time Warner; no competition with other cable companies meant Time Warner could charge what ever they wanted for limited services and I had no choice but to comply.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in decreased competition in the broadband market because there will be only two companies providing broadband services in my area; AOL-Time Warner and the Echostar/Hughes merged satellite company.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Carl Sampson
10040 Cypress Meadows Lane
Orlando, FL 32825