

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Competition is GOOD.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE AWAY COMPETITION.

I am writing to urge you to NOT 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 COSTS for consumers like me because the combined company will provide DECREASED COMPETITION to cable companies and ELIMINATE COMPETITION to SATELLITE TV customers.

The combined company will be a much WEAKER competitor to cable operators because of INCREASED COSTS that will be offered to me.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased PRICES in the broadband market by providing an UNAFFORDABLE MEDIUM-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

PLEASE INVESTIGATE the ECHOSTAR corporation. They currently have QUESTIONABLE ADVERTISING TACTICS and try and HIDE the TRUE COSTS of their systems and equipment.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Melanie Burchfield
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Roseville, CA 95661