

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 NOT to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will ultimately decrease consumer satisfaction through anticompetitive business practices with resultant unmitigated subscription rate increases over time. The FACT that Dish Network is currently under investigation in 10 states over consumer complaint issues is evidence that consumer satisfaction is not a primary concern, nor has it been for some time.

The combined company will likely be in a much weaker position to compete with cable operators since this highly leveraged buyout of DirectTV, with the eventual replacement of one or both reception technologies and its attendant expense, will impact the combined company's operating cash flow. Dish Network was shown through words and action to have fought tooth-and-nail right up to the end the mandatory carriage of local-into-local programming as required by the FCC starting in January of this year. And this was WITH the competitive pressure of the market penetration of DirectTV which initiated carriage 3 days earlier than required. I leave it to the regulatory and congressional analysts to contemplate the combined Dish Network/DirectTV company's compliance attitude toward future regulatory mandates in a post-merger business environment.

Please REJECT this folly. This merger is not in consumers' interests. This merger is not in the country's interests.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Raymond Haeffele
1007 N. Yucca Avenue
Rialto, CA 92376