

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 support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase 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 local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

A concern I do wish you address is to be able to monitor the billing practice after the merger in order to monitor the 'one rate' idea. If it costs more to broadcast to New York than it does to Jacksonville, I do not wish to absorb their cost in my bill.

Outside of the aforementioned concern, I believe the merger would help to create more competition in markets such as Jacksonville where the cable company can operate with terrible customer service and still have no fear of customer loss because of lack of local competition. I myself have made the sacrifice to get poor local channel reception in order to not have to deal with cable.

Thanks for taking the time to hear my point of view.

Sincerely,

Craig Sollman
8736 Townsquare Dr N
Jacksonville, FL 32216