

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 deny 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. Without any alternatives, I also believe the prices will substantially increase.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to charge higher prices. I don't believe they will offer me a substantial increase in the number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area.

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

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Mike Schwab
95 Old Quarry Trl
Litchfield, IL 62056