

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, as the companies state, be a much stronger competitor to cable operators. However, the problem is that it will reduce competition by lowering the number of viable media distribution outlets from three to two. I am discounting Over-the-Air, which is not acceptable for the bulk of American consumers.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet (via DirectTV DSL), but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in no increase competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. As an information technology professional (specifically in Wide Area Networking,) it is my view that DirectTV's satellite internet services are a complete nonissue. It has been my experience that people only use the DirectPC/DirectDuo services when other services (including DirectTV's DSL service and cable modem service) are not available in the user's area.

Would Howard Hughes have really wanted this?

I appreciate your consideration of my views. Again, I pointedly ask that you REJECT this merger. It is fully my expectation that this information will not be transmitted forth by Hughes.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hillenburg
11 Lily Court
Bolingbrook, IL 60440