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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2211

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, CHAIRMAN
VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
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JEFFREY M. ONIZUK
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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July 26, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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01-348

The Honorable Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Reference: Docket Number 01-348 VIA FACSIMILIE: 202-418-1196

Dear Chairman Powell and Attorney General Ashcroft:

The pending merger between EchoStar Communications (DISH Network) and Hughes Electronics (DirecTV), is a significant step in the pay television industry.

Should the merger result in all 210 national media markets being served with local television programming, the merger would be a most positive and welcome step for consumers. In addition, EchoStar's longstanding pricing structure of one nationwide price will ensure that less populated areas of the country are not priced out of the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of greater competition.

Your thorough consideration of the merger proposal is merited so the goal of increased competition and more and better pay television services can be achieved.

Thank you for considering my views on this issue.

Sincerely,

Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress

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