

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me a substantial 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 increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

My family and I will be moving to PA and MT, respectively over the next year or two, where our choices are much more limited. That said, and ignoring our plans, it seems ludicrous to me that cable companies such as TCI and ATT could merge and these two could not.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Van der Koon  
1315 W Plymouth Court  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004