

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am currently a cable TV subscriber and the only cable company I have access to is Adelphia. Adelphia, at least in my area, is years behind in technology as compared to companies such as TimeWarner and Cox. Considering Adelphia's current financial situation, the chances of Adelphia installing current technology in my area are practically zero in my lifetime.

The only possibility for me is a satellite TV system. I've looked into both Echostar and DIRECTV and have come to the conclusion that there is very little difference between the companies. I know in my heart that only one of the companies will survive. The current subscription rates can NOT support two companies. The question is 'which one will survive?' The investment I have to make could reach \$1000. I can't afford to guess wrong. A merger of the two companies is the only solution to my problem.

So, 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 local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

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.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Marshall Hurst
3372 Calle Margarita
Encinitas, CA 92024