

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 Pegasus (DirectTV) I am very interested in receiving network programming in high definition (HD). I note that nothing in the information provided by Echostar or Hughes about the merger benefits mentions HD programming. I suggest the FCC require all network HD programming be carried beginning as soon as these two satellite services are combined. The FCC must require Echostar/Hughes to lead the transition to HD.

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

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.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Washburn
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