

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a rural homeowner and the Director of Information Technology at a small growing company in the technology sector, I feel uniquely qualified to share my opinion with you and stress the importance of ubiquitous broadband to the future of technology, innovation, and business in general.

And as a customer of DIRECTV, I 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.

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.

The lack of competition in this area is one thing, but the complete lack of a technology presence to rural citizens is a handicap to those of us who happen to live a seemingly insignificant one half mile from the cable service. This merger is a step in the right direction to provide equal quality and quantity of service to those excluded and willing paying customers. Opposition to this merger represents a gratuitous land line based monopoly. I'm somewhat offended by their refusal to run 0.5 mile of cable or dsl service to my home because of their service/pricing model. I thank the vision of the satellite service vendors who saw past this with the spirit of universal postal service, telephone, and electric all over the country.

Please read this and consider my views in earnest.

Sincerely,

Michael Sciortino
860 West Bloomfield Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472