

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 voice my strong support for the merger of DirectTV and DishNetwork. I am currently one of those rural subscribers who will be directly helped and impacted by this merger. I have just built a house outside of the city limits and there is no cable or DSL available here. I would clearly benefit from an affordably priced and stronger EchoStar/Hughes combined company, and I doubt very seriously that there will be any problems with competition (at least as long as cable TV still exists - they might even be forced to improve their services as well). The benefits of this merger clearly outweigh the alleged risks. It goes a long way toward leveling the playing field for the satellite industry vs. cable TV. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

James J. Walsh, M.D.  
1070 Belvidere Lane  
Morganton, NC 28655