

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to see the EchoStar / Direct merger approved. I can see no negatives if the merger is approved other than to those that have a financial interest in cable TV.

The benefits are too many to list here. More channels, local channels and competition for cable should be enough for approval within itself.

We got our first TV in 1966 and until 1996 the only real choice we had for TV service was cable when it came to our area a few years later. Now we have EchoStar TV but can not get our local channels so we still have to carry cable for those in the Roanoke / Lynchburg DMA.

I find it odd that the main outcry against the merger is monopoly or no competition when those behind the outcry have had me locked into their service with no competition now for about 3 decades.

Sincerely,

Tony Neeley
148 Woodrow Court
Monroe, VA 24574