

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 urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I have Dish Network 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.

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. Some feel the merger would be a monopoly however that is not the case there are many cable providers who offer digital programming and high speed internet. mostly to the bigger cities in the U.S. The merged EchoStar would reach out to the small cities and towns who don't have high speed internet or a cable provider. In short the merged EchoStar would not be a monopoly but rather one of many 'DBS' the merged EchoStar would just happen to use a dish outside the house. I support the merger and I ask that you do to. Approve without delay

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Jon white
2489 hawkins mill road
lynchburg, VA 24503