

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 DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to cease support of the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will remove the ability to have a choice in television services for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a monopolistic venue due to the inability and extremely high cost to become a competitor in the rural areas. I could care about the areas that have cable or other services available.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but after much research into the services available to the home consumer the joining of Echostar with DirectWay would not be beneficial. Prices do need to be brought down to a competitive level with DSL and Cablemodem access, but not by joining these two companies.

Supporting this monopoly will only destroy the economy and put millions of Americans into a choose or don't choose situation. The two companies are stating they are double broadcasting services. They haven't been doing that since Echostar purchased the last of DirectTV's satellites. They share the same signals for all the channels carried by both.

I really hope you investigate thoroughly the claims these companies are making. It would not be beneficial for these two companies to join forces. As a rural client, I want the right to choose. If you go with this farce, then I'll be stuck with selecting the right not to choose and will do without. If I wanted Echostar/Dishnetwork services, I would have gotten them years ago. I've had DirectTV since 1994 - don't make me think I'm getting the same service when I know I'm not. Don't make me think I'm going to have better service and prices when we know a monopoly doesn't have to.

Sincerely,

Lee Roberts  
19051 Oak Lawn Valley Rd  
Noble, OK 73068