

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing you on behalf of the echostar-direct tv merger. I think the merger would be very beneficial to consumers in the rural area of the state. It would be able to provide local channels to the many people who have been denied them. the laws that exist now give the rights to the cable companies to 'govern' or what I like to call 'CENSOR' the channels that I receive on MY satellite dish. That would be OK except for the people('cable') who are deciding which channels I can or cannot receive on MY television CANNOT even supply me with cable since I live in the COUNTRY!!!! Here is a little something to think about next time you are in an election. Say you spend some of your campaign money on advertisement on a local channel. well guess what, I never saw it because my local cable company tells me I can't have it! These laws governing the broadcasting of T.V. are so outdated it isn't even funny. I realize they are there to protect the interests of the cable companies but I'm sorry, times change it is time to move on to the newer technology. What are the cable companies complaining for anyway they are the ones who came in and took a huge chunk of audience from television broadcast over the airwaves anyway. Just give the people what this country stands for anyway, The Freedom of Choice.(cable or satellite)

Please stop the censoring of MY satellite.

Sincerely,

Donald Schmidt
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Pontiac, IL 61764