

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 you today as a current satellite TV subscriber living in a rural area without access to Cable TV service or DSL based broadband service. In order to recieve all of our desired TV channels, we have subscribed to BOTH Dish Netowrk and DirectTV service, an expensive and wasteful necessity. We also subscribe to Starband for Internet access in our remote area.

I would like to add my strong voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

These benefits will not happen without the merger.

Please lend your support to the approval of the Echostar and Hughes merger.

Thank you: Leon B Smith

Sincerely,

Leon Smith
PO Box 244
White Lake, NY 12786