

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 NOT support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I was a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will NOT increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies. (there are only one in each town, so there is no competition in cable either)

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 receive for free (some deal).

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing a not so affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. I have the Hughes broadband service now. They have the worst customer service, and billing is a joke. I got double billed and am still waiting six months latter for them to clear it up.

I wanted to go to HDTV and I can get it for \$299 from Dish installed. Directv wants \$1000 installed. I am glad I have the choice now. I can just install a receiver as I have the dish for the internet and it had the Directv as well on it already. Nope. They (the dealers) will only sell compleate kits INSTALLED. You think it could be simple as I only need a receiver, but I have called Directv six times, only to get told 'go see a dealer, and what ever they have, that is it. If you don't like it call Dish'
You crooks in Washington have taken EchoStar and Hughes money to do your little fake show, so do your little dance. Mr Powell is the 21st century Mr Bo Jangles. Same thing, dance for the rich white people Mike.
Meanwhile back at the ranch they are treating customers like it is a done deal. I have been tols 'we don't need your business'.
ONE last thing. Ask Hughes how many customers are on what they call 'suspend' and do they count them as current customers. They do every thing they can to get you to suspend rather than just cancel. I never had that much pressure frok a used car salesman.

[note to Hughes. I made a copy of this to be sent through the FCC web site because I know you will not let this one pass. I will have the FCC watch for it and see]

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Daniel Skaff
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Harrison, MI 48625