

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 support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

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. I live far enough away from the local stations that reception is marginal at best, and unacceptable in bad weather. Also, cable is unavailable to me, based on my location in the county and distance from the road, so DIRECTV is my only means of getting programming. The merger will finally allow me to get the local news and programming.

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.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Tom Scales
548 Thornfield Drive
Ridgeway, VA 24148