

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 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 an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite.

I currently pay in excess of \$250 per year to view local TV channels that I am unable to receive via an antenna. My requests to receive these channels via satellite have been declined repeatedly. I feel like the monopoly in my area is my cable company.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Christopher Harris
284 Highland Drive
Roanoke, VA 24019