

CH-348

02-NB/28



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives
State Legislative Building
Raleigh 27601-1096

May 14, 2002

REPRESENTATIVE DREW P. SAUNDERS
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The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Room 8A, 201
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

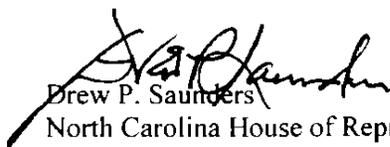
On behalf of the citizens of the state of North Carolina, I request the Commission give a fair and thorough review of the proposed DIRECTV and EchoStar merger.

It is especially appealing that local broadcasting and, eventually, Internet broadband would be available in all markets nationwide. I also believe the pay television market will benefit substantially from this merger because of its likely result in increased competition between cable and satellite providers.

Because there is currently a great divide between rural and urban areas in terms of broadband availability, the merger should accelerate economic development for all in our state.

I urge that both the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice will give every consideration to this merger and its ability to increase competition.

Sincerely,


Drew P. Saunders
North Carolina House of Representatives

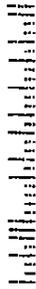
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Chairman
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