

# TEXAS CONFERENCE OF BLACK MAYORS

Chairman  
Mayor John White  
Ames, Texas

01-348  
02-1181274

June 4, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: FCC Docket No. 01-348

Dear Chairman Powell:

At the recent National Conference of Black Mayors' (NBCM) Annual Conference in Jackson, Mississippi, we learned of the current proceedings with regard to the merger involving EchoStar Communications Corporation and Hughes Electronics Corporation. You may be aware that the NBCM adopted a strong Resolution supporting the merger.

On behalf of the 43 Mayors representing the Texas Conference of Black Mayors (TCBM) I want to express our strong support for approval of the EchoStar/Hughes Electronics merger.

The TCBM believes this merger, if approved, will result in better services at lower costs in the cities and towns we represent as well as those across the nation. Within our communities, we have bright, talented young people ready to take their places in the workforce. It is imperative that they have access to the latest information technology and the widest range of information possible, whether in their communities or in a metropolitan area far away.

Moreover, we believe this new company will be a stronger competitor to Cable TV. As I understand it, the new company would be able to offer local TV coverage IN ALL 210 MARKETS and most importantly, would have the available spectrum to offer greater diversity in programming.

Taken together, we believe this merger will contribute significantly to closing the digital divide and allow us to work with this new company to achieve the best communications technology for all of our citizens.

I urge you to take our interests sincerely and act expeditiously to approve the merger.

Sincerely,

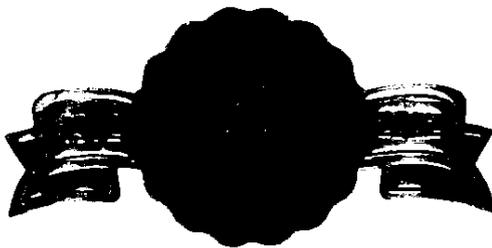
Mayor John White  
President

cc: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
The Honorable Phil Gramm  
Texas Congressional Delegation  
The Honorable Eddie Bernice-Johnson, Chairperson, Congressional Black Caucus  
The Honorable Marilyn Murrell, President, National Conference of Black Mayors  
The Honorable Wellington Webb  
FCC Docket No. 01-348

City of

Ames

Someplace Special



P.O. Box 8094  
304 Martin St.  
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The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
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The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554



Repeal Unfair Inheritance Taxes

# The 60 Plus Association

1600 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 960, Arlington, VA 22209



The Honorable Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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# The 60 Plus Association

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Phone (703) 807-2070 • Fax (703) 807-2073 www.60Plus.org

*Tax Fairness for Seniors • Repeal Unfair Inheritance Taxes!  
Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award • Senior Voice Newsletter*

*Rep. Roger H. Zion, (R-IN, 1967-75)*  
*Honorary Chairman*

*James L. Martin*  
*President*

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding 01-348

June 3, 2002

Dear Chairman Powell:

As I've listened to the discussion about the merger agreement between EchoStar and Hughes, I was pleased to discover that neither of these privately owned businesses is requesting money from the government to fund their deal. While it's clear that the Federal Communications Commission has approval over this issue as a matter of public interest, we submit to you that a free market solution -- such as this -- creates more sound choices for American consumers.

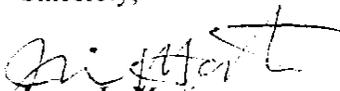
Our group, the 60 Plus Association, advocates a free enterprise, less government, less taxes approach to seniors issues. We believe that the EchoStar-DirecTV merger is one of the best examples of a private solution to public policy issues in a long time. It would begin to erase the digital divide that still yawns between rural and suburban America.

This merger would bring expanded programming choices to the viewing public as well as deliver specialty programs; for example, making entertainment or educational programming available which caters to an older viewing audience. It would also deliver local news and programming via satellite, doing away forever with rabbit-ear-and-tin-foil tuning and switching back and forth from satellite to over-the-air transmission of local channels.

Most significantly, the increased competition in the pay television industry will result in better prices and more offerings for consumers, and will offer a reasonable alternative to cable television. The "New EchoStar" has made a commitment to a nationwide pricing plan; meaning subscribers in a rural area would pay no more for service than subscribers in a densely populated urban or suburban area. A fair-minded solution like this is critical for the many seniors who live on a fixed income.

I hope you will agree with us that this proposed merger is definitely in the public interest, and give the green light for the "New EchoStar." Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
James L. Martin

60 Plus is a 10-year-old nonpartisan group with a less government, less taxes approach to seniors' issues. 60 Plus is supported by donations from its more than 500,000 citizen lobbyists to print and mail millions of letters, petitions, and voting indexes. 60 Plus publishes a newsletter, SENIOR VOICE, and a SCORECARD, bestowing a GUARDIAN OF SENIORS' RIGHTS award on lawmakers in both parties who vote "pro-senior." 60 Plus also presents a BENJAMIN FRANKLIN award to those who support death tax repeal as well as a LEGISLATOR OF THE MONTH award to the most pro-active friends of seniors in Congress. 60 Plus has been called 'an increasingly influential lobbying group for the elderly....'



01-3481  
01-101278

North Carolina General Assembly  
Senate Chamber  
State Legislative Building  
Raleigh 27601-2808

SENATOR ERIC REEVES  
14TH DISTRICT

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June 5, 2002

COMMITTEES:

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RESOURCES  
COMMERCE  
FINANCE

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Room 8A, 201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the citizens of the State of North Carolina to request your support of the proposed DIRECTV and EchoStar merger. Our citizens and economy will benefit from competitive broadband and increased local channels that this alliance will provide.

North Carolinians have benefited from the introduction of satellite service and should also realize communication gains from this merger. There is currently a discrepancy between rural and urban areas because high-speed Internet is already available only in heavily populated areas. If technology provides opportunity for all, then it is my opinion that we should make technology available to all.

Opponents of the merger have wisely pointed out that antitrust issues need to be carefully examined. The cable industry, on the other hand, continues to have a monopoly presence in many areas.

It is my hope that you and your department will give this matter a just review and positive consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Reeves

ER/bh





The Honorable Michael Powell  
 445 12th St. SW  
 Room 8A201  
 Washington, DC 20534

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02-NB-294

# The Demco Group

317 W. Second Street  
Clayton, NC 27520

May 23, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room 8A201  
Washington, DC 20554

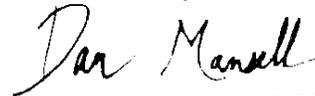
Dear Chairman Powell:

As a citizen of a state that is largely rural, I want to encourage you to do nothing to block the merger of the two satellite companies EchoStar and DirecTV. This would be a boon to North Carolina's economy, and I'm sure the same is true all over the country. Combined, these two cutting-edge companies would be able to drive down television service costs by competing with the often monopolistic cable companies.

Moreover, they would finally be capable of delivering very fast internet service to places in the state that are considered by the cable and DSL providers to be unprofitable for setting up the wire infrastructure required for such technologies.

This state, and many others, sorely needs this merger to occur. Please allow these companies the freedom to organize as they choose so they can help launch everyone—urban, suburban, and rural—into the 21<sup>st</sup> century well prepared for the high-tech challenges that must be faced.

Sincerely,



Dan Mansell, CEO



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The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
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Washington, DC 20554

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Tech5 Corporation  
156 Vandiver Drive  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

May 22, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room 8A201  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I felt it necessary to voice my concerns regarding the review of the proposed EchoStar/Hughes merger. Apparently, there are some people who oppose this merger on the grounds that it would create a monopoly in the satellite TV industry. This simply is not true. Nothing but government bureaucrats are keeping anyone from launching satellites and competing with such a company, and many are already in the process of doing so. The only monopoly they need to worry about is the cable companies.

In North Carolina, many people have to put up with ridiculous cable rates because satellites companies aren't able to provide local channels to their part of the state. The combined resources of the DISH Network and DirecTV systems would allow them to provide local channels to everyone and actually compete with cable. Combined, these companies would also be able to offer high-speed internet access to the whole state and would abide by federal stipulations, including the must-carry requirements.

I hope you see how important and beneficial this merger would be to all Americans. I know the citizens of North Carolina would very much appreciate the lower rates following from the new competition in the television and internet markets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Hilton".

Representative Mark Hilton, Partner

61-348

2002 APR 29 9 49



The Honorable Michael Powell  
 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
 Room 8A201  
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DL-NB-397

The Results Company  
2800 Two Hanover Square  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
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May 23, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Room 8A201  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I know you are busy, so I will be brief. History (and common sense) shows us that when the government tries to second-guess the market and interferes with private business decisions, the result is usually bad for everyone. I know you and the current administration are well-aware of this fact. Therefore, I hope that you employ such reasoning when considering the EchoStar/Hughes merger.

This merger should be allowed to take place. It will introduce serious competition into the television service industry by providing an affordable alternative to the dominant cable companies. It will also help spur the growth of outlying areas that would soon be provided with a high-speed internet option that they currently cannot have.

Thank you for your time and I sincerely hope you choose the free-market route and allow these companies to merge.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Fuller, President and CEO