

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 support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies. The cable company (Mediacom) in my area (Iowa) has a stranglehold on the tri-state area. They offer only what they want to and charge ludicrous amounts for low quality service and programming.

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, nor does anyone else in this state. Thus creating a huge dilemma of whether to forgoe the superior service of satellite television in order to receive local service, thereby supporting the monopoly which is currently entrenched here, or to give up the necessary function of local weather, due to the many types of severe weather conditions which exist here, including numerous tornadoes each year.

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 appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Doug Hagerman
1907 south 4th avenue
marshalltown, IA 50158