

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. This market (Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, PA) would have local on local with the merger, but now only the less-popular Echo Star customers will. This is both a dis-service to the commercial stations in lost revenue due to waivers and to DirectTV customers as my option is still SNOW on local cable.

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 don't believe the FCC voting actions on this the other day was warranted. You should live like real people in the real world.

For the local reps, drive down streets and identify the dishes you see. How many DirectTV dishes won't get the local market later this month then EchoStar starts showing local on local and DirectTV does not? Well, the election is coming, too.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Barry Erick
28 Ridge St
Dallas, PA 18612