

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have recently been reading that the merger between Dish Network and DirectTV may not be approved. I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support in favor of this merger. Several government agencies are pushing to make High Definition TV a reality and I believe this merger would be a giant step forward in providing HDTV to those who desire it. I also subscribe to cable and was advised today by our cable company that it is not intending to provide HDTV in our area anytime soon.

Additionally, DSL or cable modem is not available in my small mountain community, even though we are very close to a large metropolitan area.

These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Ted Riggs
2172 Augusta Drive
Evergreen, CO 80439