

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 you today as one who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like rural arts and cultural organizations, including the ability to create and share their artistic and cultural ideas with the world.

As a technology director of The Ink People Center for the Arts, <http://www.inkpeople.org/rti.html> and The Eureka Theater, <http://www.eurekatheater.com>, I have been advocating for higher speeds of internet access for the last six years. And until now our only options for broadband access was through the phone company who rebroadcasts it using outdated microwave technologies. Now that there is fiber optic solutions available, the phone company is refusing to pay Caltran's access fees to install fiber optic phone lines to Humboldt County. Leaving rural communities like ours without any options or ability to expand our cultural communications and marketing services. We don't need these problems, we need solutions. By allowing this merger, will create significant improvements in our areas ability to attract professional artists to use our venues with webcasting abilities, and patrons to our cultural events.

Sincerely,

Gordon Soderberg
612 F Street
Eureka, CA 95501