

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing, as a current satellite TV subscriber, 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 many benefits to consumers, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new tv technologies.

The combined company will be able to offer all local TV channels, which is important to my family because we are supposedly able to receive local channels with an antenna, which we in fact cannot, due to topography. We would very much like to be able to enjoy local news, programming & events; and to see local advertisements. Since cable is not available in our area, we are left with the choice of watching stations from other areas of the country, or suffering eye-strain trying to see the one station that does come in fairly clearly at our house. People should have the right to watch their local tv stations, as well as stations in other areas of the country if they want to. It truly involves freedom of speech, and freedom of choice, which should still be a proud part of this country.

This merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable, which will help alleviate the monopoly that cable has in many communities, which lets them get away with charging inflated rates.

This merger will also bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. The ability to quickly and easily access the Internet would boost productivity and be a great help in education of our children.

These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. In the interest of improving our access to television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

The current Bush administration continues to chip away at personal freedom, and the rights of the people to participate in decision-making. The ones against this merger are, as usual, big business and big money. This nation used to be a democracy!

Please lend your support to the citizens of this country.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue Hayden
605 Parkview Drive
Rocky Mount, VA 24151