

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 a substantial number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area.

A merger of the two satellite companies will offer something that is very necessary in most large markets; a competitor to cable television. Cable acts as a monopoly, offers inferior services for a higher price than satellite, and some cable companies work hard to stifle satellite companies. A merger would create a competitor that the cable companies would have to take seriously, and compete in an open market with, and not continue monopolistic practices that are not to the benefits of the customer.

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,

Jeffrey Pencek
274 A Murray Place
King of Prussia, PA 19406