

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. Cable TV systems are currently a monopoly in almost every city, and even in areas where there is competition, it is geographically limited. Thus, the cable companies have little motivation to do what's in the best interest of the consumer. Having another option, satellite, that can compete and surpass the quality and quantity of HDTV channels offered by cable is the only reason the cable companies will ever upgrade.

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,

Jeff Guilfoyle
13952 fowler ave
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