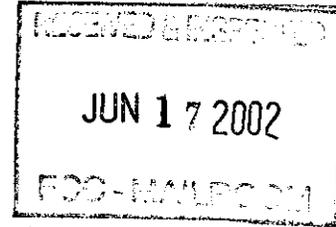


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02-N81235

June 13, 2002

Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to convey my support for the EchoStar and Hughes Electronics merger proposal.

One of the biggest obstacles for rural Iowans, and all rural residents of our country, is the digital divide that keeps technology in the hands of urban residents. Today, broadband technology is proving to be one of the most versatile and powerful applications in the marketplace. Increasingly, people are using the Internet to schedule appointments, go shopping, take classes, and of course communicate with friends and family.

With the approval of this merger, rural consumers in Iowa will have the opportunity to tune into learning programs, a wide variety of channels, and some may even be able to see their local news clearly for the first time.

I believe this plan is in the public interest, and I urge your approval.

Sincerely,

Terry Knapp
Legislative Committee Chair
Iowa Association of REALTORS®

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President R. Scott Case 303 West Kimberly Road Davenport, Iowa 52806 (563) 391-3031 E-Mail: scase91527@aol.com	President-Elect Larry Pickering 3424 E.P. True Pkwy, Suite 200 West Des Moines, Iowa 50265 (515) 453-6506 E-Mail: larrycrs97@aol.com	Vice President/Treasurer Dave Bert 2300 Spruce Hills Drive Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 (563) 355-5371 E-Mail: dbert@melfosterco.com	Chief Executive Officer Martin Lee 1370 N.W. 114th Street, Suite 100 Clive, Iowa 50325 E-Mail: marty@iowarealtors.com
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