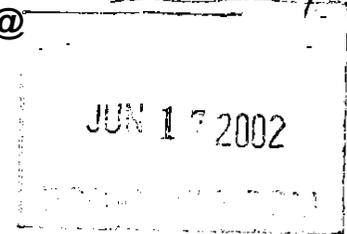


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1370 N.W. 114th Street, Suite 100 • Clive, Iowa • 50325 • 515-453-1064 • Fax: 515-453-1070  
www.iowarealtors.com

02-NB/254

June 13, 2002

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to express my support for the merger proposal between Hughes and EchoStar. **As** a REALTOR® from a rural state, I view this merger as a great opportunity to bring a much needed, innovative service to Iowa homeowners.

These two satellite providers have worked together to form a partnership that would bring high-speed Internet access and a wide menu of pay-TV offerings to the often forgotten rural population in America. Many Iowa homeowners are frustrated because they do not have access to these new technology options. This merger would provide them with the services they want, as well as give them additional tools to create new opportunities for their communities.

It is important to ensure that rural areas have equal access to the types of technology that benefit our larger metropolitan areas. I believe this innovative idea will benefit the people of Iowa, and would ask for your support in approving this merger. I appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

*Dick Robert CRB, CRS*

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Dick Robert  
Broker-REALTOR® - Cedar Falls, Iowa  
Iowa Association of REALTORSO

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: dberiOmelfosterco.com

Chief Executive Officer  
Martin Lee  
1370 N.W. 114th Street, Suite 100  
Clive, Iowa 50325  
E-Mail: marty@iowaieaitori.com