

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF REALTOR8



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

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Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to convey my support for the EchoStar and Hughes Electronics merger proposal that the Federal Communications Commission *is* considering.

As a REALTOR® in Iowa, I have seen many changes take place in the real estate profession over the years. One of **those** changes is **the** need for better and **faster technology** regardless of **where you live**. **Currently, our rural areas are suffering** because they do **not** have the tools available to advance **with** technology.

I **am** writing to ask for your **support** of **this merger** so we can give the smaller **communities the opportunity** to thrive *in a global marketplace*. This merger will allow **consumers who currently have no choices in high-speed Internet, or even local Internet dial-ups** to be provided **with** options for the technology **that most urban areas** already have.

I believe if the **FCC** approves **this** merger, it will provide an important tool for rural **Iowans and the businesses that serve** them.

Sincerely,

Lana Baldus
Stogman Realty, Cedar Rapids

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