

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20541

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like your **support** for the merger **that** is currently before the Federal Communications **Commission** between **EchoStar** and **DirecTV**. In **many rural Iowa communities, dependable and competitive television service is a challenge. Many homeowners have little or no ability to receive local television programming, and if they do, they are limited to one cable provider.**

The proposed merger of **EchoStar** and **DirecTV** would change **this** scenario for rural Iowans by **making more choices and solutions available to the general public. As a REALTOR®, I hear consumers asking about high-speed Internet access and technology features for their homes, and in most rural Iowa areas these options are currently not available.**

A proposal like this merger would deliver competitive technology to even the most remote locations, instantly allowing some of our smaller businesses and individuals to compete in the global marketplace.

I believe this approval of this merger could literally **make** a world of difference for **some** communities in Iowa

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Walters, CRS

*Iowa Realty
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