

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 REJECT the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will harm competition among satellite providers and between satellite and other broadband choices such as digital cable. I think the merger will, bluntly, suck for consumers like me.

The combined company will be much more likely to reach a tacit (or explicit) understanding with whatever local cable operator it competes with in any given market. I find the arguments about increased channel to be spurious -- if that's good for competition, I would expect to see both Echostar and DirectTV expanding into more markets now.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet via DSL, and if I chose to get it from DirectTV or Echostar, I could. The combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in decreased choice for my family, and decreased competition for my broadband dollars.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Andy Schwarz
5122 Desmond Street
Oakland, CA 94618