

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 support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I am within 25 miles of either Harrisburg, PA or York, PA and do not have access to cable service on my road. I am only able to receive network channels via DIRECTV (at an added cost) due to my geographical location being between two mountain peaks. The network channels I receive are not local channels and thus I am unable at this time to receive local news, information, or advertising via television.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now. When I questions Verizon (my local telephone service provider) there are no plans whatsoever to provide DSL service to my area and as mentioned earlier there is no cable service on my road.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Gary Rush
1500 Roundtop Road
Lewisberry, PA 17339