

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

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators, but at a great cost to consumers. By being able to control the entire DBS market, the combined company would be able to reduce channel offerings, allow service response time to increase, and drop support for many of the existing receivers, thus forcing existing customers to buy in all over again

I feel that DBS is too important a technology for broadband delivery, to allow it to be relegated to 'one choice among many.' To me DBS makes far more sense than cable ever will, because it eliminates the need for cable's infrastructure. I've always considered cable TV to be a step backwards from broadcast. Cable is expensive because consumers ultimately pay the bill for installing and maintaining all those miles of coax, repeaters, amplifiers, etc. As a consumer, I would like to see MORE DBS providers, so the price of service can be forced down to the point that DBS can kill off cable.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet via DSL, and I do NOT believe that the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market. To my knowledge EchoStar doesn't currently offer any kind of internet access, so the combined company would offer exactly what is currently available from Hughes. In addition, Interned access via DBS is only price competitive if the satilite is used for downlink only, and the consumer is still required to establish a modem connection over the telephone network. Uplink via DBS is very expensive.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Jay Silla
456 Union Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15205