

MB Docket no. 01-348

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# G & H Seed Co., Inc.

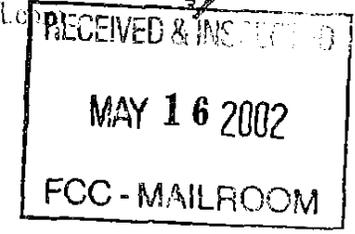
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Nick Simoneaux, Manager \* E-Mail: nsimoneaux@ghseed.com

March 20, 2002



Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.  
Washington DC 20554

REF Docket: 01-348

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would ask that you support the current pending proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes electronics. This merger will offer numerous benefits to residents across the state of Louisiana.

Cable television companies currently control approximately 80 percent of the pay television market. In addition, the cable companies also control a sizable percentage of broadband Internet access. The merged company will be able to eliminate this virtual monopoly and offer an opportunity to all residents in Louisiana. It will bridge the digital divide that currently exists between rural and urban areas and enable schools, businesses, and homes to have access to high-speed Internet service.

The merged company will be able to eliminate duplicative programming and offer local-to-local channels to all 210 markets in the United States. Its commitment to nationwide pricing is impressive. Regardless of where consumers live, they will receive the same DBS subscription services for the same price

The efficiencies gained from the merged company's combined customer base will enable a high-speed Internet service to be offered that is price-competitive with existing providers in urban settings. The merger will provide the technical and economic infrastructure to convert every household in Louisiana and the country to a digital "have".

This merger is pro-consumer and pro-competition. It will benefit many residents across the state of Louisiana and I feel that it will have a positive effect on consumers everywhere.

Sincerely,

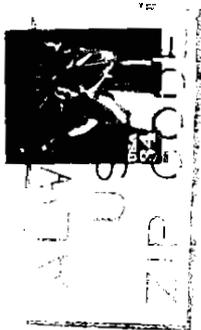
Nick Simoneaux  
President, Ag. Leaders of La.

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Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
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