

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

Considering that cable was allowed for years to be a monopoly it's laughable that you say it would make only one satellite service. Considering most people can get cable this is about competition and the lowering of prices. Cable has consistently gotten higher in price than any other service with no increase in channels or quality. Yet I have never seen you do a damn thing about the increase in cable prices and honestly believe that your decision against the merger was based on money from the cable companies and not from any desire to aid consumer choice. If you really wanted consumers to benefit you would allow the competition against cable to be stronger, but as it is several laws had to be passed to allow satellite tv as it exists today. Personally I hope you do what's best for the American people, but somehow it seems more appropriate that you grant a merger to Comcast allowing it to be an even bigger monopoly while doing everything in your power to stop competition in the form of satellite tv.

Also you are severely hindering satellite tv from being able to send HDTV. At the moment there is not one HDTV signal that I can receive and even in the best areas of the country you can only receive 3 or 4 channels. Considering I have an HDTV and am someday planning to receive HDTV signals it gets me irritated that while the FCC supposedly supports HDTV it prevents it from being more receivable nationwide. As for cable there is no hope in the next year of being able to receive 1 HDTV channel from the one and only cable company Comcast.

Sincerely,

Richard Robinson  
225 Somerset Drive  
Gadsden, AL 35901