

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have viewed the proposed EchoStar / DIRECTV merger with some skepticism. However, with the hope that the regulatory agencies will impose SAFEGUARDS RELATING TO CONSUMER PRICING following a merger reducing satellite provider competition, I would offer the following:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I 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.

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.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Mark Bielecki
PO Box 4044
White River Junction, VT 05001