

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 !!NOT!! to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I don't believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies. I am a current customer of EchoStar, and we do not and cannot get local television. If cable were available I believe it would be a (cost effecient) much better choice.

The combined company will be a worse monopoly than it already is. The ONLY currently competition is between Hughes and EchoStar!!!!

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 very expensive 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, and would greatly appreciate it if you could look into our plight in my area.

- 1: No broadband access to Internet
- 2: spotty over the air local TV and no local availability from EchoStar
- 3: Cost factor greatly exceeding the cost to heat my home over a cold winter season.

G. Binkley

Sincerely,

gary binkley
9564 Lake Rd
Fostoria, MI 48464