

Center for Digital Democracy  
1718 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009

October 21, 2003

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 03-124, Applications of GM, Hughes Electronics and The News Corp. for Authority to Transfer Control

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Today, October 21, I had a brief telephone conversation with Ms. Barbara Esbin of the Media Bureau.

I explained to Ms. Esbin that the Commission should more closely examine:

- The role that News Corp.'s NDS subsidiary plays in program and marketing distribution;
- The impact that Gemstar/TV Guide will have on DirecTV distribution;
- The interactive technologies controlled by Liberty Media, including Open TV;
- The relationship between News Corp. and Liberty, including the recent \$500 billion investment;
- The hurdles that competitive programmers will face with a News Corp. controlled Hughes;
- The need to ensure access to the entire range of interactive distribution technologies, as well as channel capacity, to unaffiliated, independent and emerging programmers.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Chester  
Executive Director  
[www.democraticmedia.org](http://www.democraticmedia.org)

