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November 19, 2003

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: Proposed Transfer of Control to News Corp of Hughes Electronics from GM, Docket No. 03-124

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 18, 2003, I met with Jon Cody, media advisor to Chairman Powell. We discussed the issues that have been previously raised by CDD's submissions in this docket. They included: the need to reject the transfer since it will not provide competition to cable in the forms of rates and services; the safeguards necessary to address the unique ownership by News Corp. of NDS, as it would be—if approved—the only MVPD entrant with a vertically-integrated set-top system; issues related to Gemstar and Liberty Media; and the necessity to safeguard against News Corp. retransmission consent abuses, including the charge by NASA that Fox has—illegally in our view—demanded affiliates turn over use of their Congressionally-mandated digital spectrum to the network. We also urged the Chairman to ensure that DirecTV would offer sufficient access to both commercial and non-commercial programmers without market power (i.e. must carry/retrans) for the national and local (spotbeam) markets.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey A. Chester
Executive Director

