

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 support the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. I believe that this merger will provide two things.

First, it will provide increased competition. One should not view this competition from the micro level, EchoStar versus DIRECTV. Rather it should be viewed from the macro level, from the standpoint of the industries that deliver home entertainment, be it from CATV, satellite, or through the phone wires. I believe that this merger will finally provide competition to the cable industry which holds a virtual monopoly on the TV market in my community.

Secondly, I believe that because of this competition, I will be able to obtain better service (local channels via satellite) and that price increases will be kept in check. I urge you to support this.

Sincerely,

Paul Augustin
32 Miller's Creek Ln
Slidell, LA 70458