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FRANK BARNITZ
State Representative
District 150

01-348

February 28, 2002

Mr. Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, South West
Washington DC 20544

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APR 29 2002

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Powell:

I respectfully request the assistance of the Federal Communications Commission in conducting an investigation of the proposed merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics' DirecTV satellite services. This investigation should assess the potential impact on consumers. It is essential that the FCC undertake a thorough review of the proposal

The availability and pricing of communication services, especially in the rural market, may be negative. If the proposed merger is carried out, EchoStar Communication will control the nation's satellite television market and consumers could be adversely impacted.

I whole heartily request the serious consideration of the FCC in investigating this merger and await your decision.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Barnitz
Frank Barnitz
State Representative
District 150

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