

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am the Owner of PCFastNet, and I'm writing to urge you to not support the proposed merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. I believe the merger holds tremendous detriment for my company here in Park City, UT which sells EchoStar's DISH Network satellite TV service and Pegasus/DirectTV. The new company will offer a less attractive product to consumers, and this will mean less business for my company.

The majority of my customers are able to subscribe to their local broadcast channels via satellite because they live in a small television market. This is a lie because the DISH Network does have sufficient spectrum to provide all local channels in every one of the country's 210 local television markets, and also DTV does. Currently, EchoStar offers local broadcast channels in only 36 markets. The merger will allow the combined company to stop broadcasting more than 500 identical TV channels. This will increase capacity and allow the new company to serve all TV markets in the U.S.

If the merger is approved, the new EchoStar will provide consumers in my area an non-affordable high speed Internet access service via satellite.

DirectWay is a product Mr.Ergan want's to get his hands on because he failed miserably with Starband and hurt a lot of there smaller retailers with it. They also want or are tryingf to cut out the retailers with there own company local operations. That did not work for GoldenSky so why would it work for Charlie. There are a small number of customers in my area who do enjoy access to high-speed Internet access service via cable and DSL service. For them, this merger will result in decreased competition in the broadband market, potentially driving up prices of DSL and cable providers. However, the majority of the homes, schools and businesses in my area are beyond the reach of cable and DSL wires. For these customers, the new EchoStar would be their only chance of getting an affordable high speed Internet service.

EchoStar retailers like me will gain the ability to offer the popular sports packages that would otherwise only be available on DIRECTV, once the merger is completed. This additional programming will increase customer demand, and improve sales.This is true only because DTV was smarter to procure the contracts for these services and again Charlie wants to get his hands on it.

Please do not support the merger between EchoStar Communications Corporation and Hughes Electronics. There are many benefits of the merger, but I believe that most importantly, the new company will decrease competition with cable and help hold down cable rate increases. These savings, in turn, will not be passed along to customers, which will be good for my business.

This letter was edit to the best of my ability to show you how greedy Echostar is and he will do anything to gain more control of the market share and dictate to the retailers if not drive them out of business entirely.

Sincerely,

Ted Bartkoski
Park City, UT 84098