

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing to urge you to support the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. I believe the merger holds tremendous potential for my company in Tyler, TX which sells EchoStar's DISH Network satellite TV service. The new company will offer a more attractive product to consumers, and this will mean more business for my company.

If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to offer local broadcast stations to all 210 of the nation's television markets. Currently, EchoStar offers service in only 36 markets. This is possible because both EchoStar and DIRECTV currently duplicate hundreds of channels of identical programming. By combining their limited spectrum, the new company will become a fully competitive cable alternative in every television market in the country. This will allow me to provide a better product to my customers in the near future.

This merger will provide consumers across the country with an affordable high-speed Internet access service provider because broadband via satellite can reach areas of the country cable and DSL wires do not. This is rural Americas only realistic hope for affordable broadband service. The new company will also provide much needed competition to cable and DSL where high speed Internet access service is already available.

The merger will allow the new company to better compete with cable. This is good for all consumers because subscribers to the new service will benefit from the competition on price and services whether or not they are served by cable.

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.

EchoStar will not be able to compete effectively with the cable companies in the future unless it has the ability to match their technological innovations. The merger will allow the new EchoStar to provide HDTV, Interactive TV, and near video-on-demand. The other benefits outlined above are important, but these are the most important ones for me. Please support the EchoStar-Hughes merger, and help bring these advanced television services to consumers sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Paul Beasley
3300 W. Shaw
Tyler, TX 75701

