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February 4, 2002

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

01-348

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Black Star Communications is submitting this letter in support of the merger between EchoStar Communications Corporation and Hughes Electronics' Direct TV. Black Star Communications is a non-profit organization that created CoLours TV, a multicultural and multi-ethnic programming network, which features positive images of people of color.

Black Star Communications was founded in Denver, Colorado by a cross section of civil rights and non-profit organizations such as the NAACP, the Urban League, Black United Fund of Colorado, The Greater Metro Denver Ministerial Alliance, and the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce. We created CoLours TV for the purpose of building bridges across the cultural divide. Our programming features the faces and issues of African, Asian, Latin, and Native American people. Because of EchoStar, our programming is seen in 3.2 million households across the United States.

As you know, the merger of these two companies would eliminate the duplication of networks carried by both EchoStar and Direct TV. The result of this situation would allow for the launch of other non-profit and diverse programming networks.

EchoStar has a record of accomplishment for carrying ethnically diverse channels and we applaud their efforts to add more when space becomes available. Therefore, we think this merger would ultimately be a benefit to an ethnically diverse television audience in the United States.

Sincerely,

Tracy Jenkins
Tracy Jenkins
Vice President & General Manager

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