

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 you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will limit competition, raise prices and reduce programming options.

By merging, the combined company will be nothing more than a monopoly for satellite services. Because several areas of the country are not served by cable, there will simply be no other competition to the merged company.

The companies tout the benefits of high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. This reasoning is flawed, and is nothing more than an altruistic carrot to dangle before the FCC. The truth is this merger will be a reduction in programming and an increase in prices.

High speed internet access is occurring in rural America through other means such as microwave in combination with radio. Furthermore, there is no reason why such Internet access cannot be offered independently.

This merger does nothing but destroy a competitive choice for satellite viewing.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television, I urge you to NOT support this merger.

Sincerely,

Bill Naifeh
6002 Morningside Ave.
Dallas, TX 75206