

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I want to let you know that I strongly support the merger of Echostar and Direct TV satellite companies. I am both a cable and satellite subscriber. I have to have both because I can't get a local station without it. If the merger takes place I would have the option of getting local stations on my satellite dish. Some rural people try to argue that there will be no competition if this merger takes place. Cable may not be available for the rural people but cable still is the competition regarding pricing. The rural people will get more with the merger because like me they will then be able to get local channels and broadband over satellite.

Please be carefull when you hear from rural people that they are opposed. Many Rural electric cooperatives have an exclusive deal with Direct TV which gives them a sweet deal that has motivated them to be opposed to the merger. This is not in the best interest of the public.

Please vote for the merger so we can have more options for our TV and internet usage.

Sincerely,

Mike Buitenwerf
5636 Columbine Dr
Johnston, IA 50131