

THE KANSAS CITY  
BLUES & JAZZ  
Festival

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March 27, 2002

The Hon. Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 – 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Powell:

If I understand the situation, the Dish Network and DIRECTV currently provide pay TV and high-speed Internet service by direct broadcast satellite in about 40 of the nation's largest markets. The two companies want to merge, and when that's done, they plan to build up their coverage to some 210 markets – that is, the entire United States.

In a marketplace where cable companies control 80% of the market for pay TV, not to mention high-speed Internet access by cable, I find it difficult to understand why it's a bad thing for the satellite companies to compete with cable nationwide. Not only will the competition benefit those of us who have cable access, but satellite TV is often the only option available to residents of rural areas where cable doesn't go.

I believe that both the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission are currently considering the merger between Dish and DIRECTV (FCC Docket # 01-348). I urge you to support it.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Rich Carr  
President

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