



January 23, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
RE: Proceeding # 01-348

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to encourage your support for the proposed merger between EchoStar and DirecTV. I think when you review the brief history of this industry, you will find that this merger is a healthy and logical development for consumers and the evolving satellite telecommunications industry at-large.

As a physician who has been very interested in making the most modern medical technologies available in rural regions of our nation, I am eager to see the kinds of telemedical advances which can be made possible in remote areas of our state with the advancement of high-speed, wide band, satellite-based internet capabilities, which I hope will be a by-product of this merger.

Our Governor, William J. Janklow, has been a bold innovator in the development of information technologies in South Dakota. His Wiring the Schools program has been successful in bringing long distance learning to rural classrooms where dwindling populations and enrollments have challenged the survival of small, rural schools. I believe the benefits which will evolve from this merger will help to add new chapters to the kinds of technological innovations Governor Janklow has created.

To folks outside South Dakota, our state might appear to be a remote "big square state" on the map. But if we are willing to support innovative ideas which improve telecommunications needs in our state, like the EchoStar merger plan, South Dakotans will not view themselves as living in a remote place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Edward T. Clark MD'.

Edward T. Clark, M.D.
4708 S. Wildwood Circle
Sioux Falls, SD 57105