STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036-1795

Telephone 202.429.3000
Facsimile 202.429.3902
http://www.steptoe.com

Pantelis Michalopoulos
202.429.6494
pmichalo@steptoe.com

April 4, 2002

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Mr. William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW – Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice – Consolidated Application of EchoStar Communications Corporation, General Motors Corporation and Hughes Electronics Corporation for Authority to Transfer Control, CS Docket No. 01-348

Dear Mr. Caton:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") submits this letter to report that, on April 3, 2002, David R. Goodfriend of EchoStar had a brief exchange that touched upon the above-captioned proceeding in an otherwise unrelated meeting with Tom Tycz, Cassandra Thomas, Selina Khan and Fern J. Jarmulnek.

At the meeting, EchoStar explained its view that it will need access to all of its licensed Ka-band orbital locations notwithstanding its proposed merger with Hughes Electronics Corporation ("Hughes"). As EchoStar and Hughes have already stated, neither Hughes nor EchoStar, standing alone, has enough available orbital resources in the CONUS portion of the geostationary arc to achieve the requisite critical mass of subscribers to actually provide an economical one-dish satellite broadband service to residential users. For such a service, a single provider would have to launch and operate Ka-band satellites to at least four orbital locations within approximately 22 degrees of one another and within the CONUS portion of the geostationary orbital arc. Separately, each DBS firm currently has available two orbital locations within this range, and PanAmSat controls one more such location. Together, however, the companies would have sufficient satellite and spectrum resources to achieve this critical mass of broadband subscribers. In the Applicants' view, the proposed combination of their orbital and

spectrum resources is necessary to make possible promptly a ubiquitous residential broadband service at an affordable price.

One copy of this notice is being filed electronically with the Commission. If you have any questions concerning this meeting or this notice, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Pantelis Michalopoulos
Carlos M. Nalda
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 429-6494

Counsel for EchoStar Communications Corporation

cc: Thomas S. Tycz
Cassandra C. Thomas
Selina Khan
Fern J. Jarmulnek