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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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ADMINISTRATION

*MP
EchoStar
PV
MKP
2280*

June 17, 2002

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proceeding 01-348 (Proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV Merger)

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am contacting you regarding the proposed merger between satellite television providers EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics DIRECTV, and ask that this matter receive a comprehensive and objective evaluation.

Even though today's telecommunications and broadband services are now reaching into every state, there are unfortunately millions of Americans including large numbers of African-Americans and as other people of color, who still cannot access high speed Internet service. Too often, those who can benefit most from these technologies are being left behind. This digital divide puts millions at a grave technological and educational disadvantage. This merger is the best way for millions of Americans to gain access to the tools of tomorrow necessary to shape business transactions, economic growth, and educational opportunities for our children. The merger would also free up wasted satellite spectrum allowing the new company to provide new programming, expand coverage of local channels, and promote new competition within the pay television market.

It has never been more important for people of my district to have access to emerging technologies. I believe that the proposed Echostar DIRECTV merger is good for competition, good for consumers, and good for Pennsylvania. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter. Please keep my office informed concerning the status of this evaluation.

Very truly yours,

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

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