

# **FISCHETTI ENTERPRISES, INC.**

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February 4, 2002

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket 01-348

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the merger proposed between EchoStar and DirectTV. As an Alaska consumer, we need more of the competition that is on horizon for pay-TV if this merger is approved.

In today's digital world, residents of Alaska and Florida are "virtual" next-door neighbors. And without a doubt, this kind of connectedness is fostering new innovations throughout every industry because of a greater reliance on technology to conduct business.

Similar innovation is just now being seen in the television industry as local cable companies and direct broadcast satellite companies battle for consumer dollars. In true capitalist form, increasing competition between the two providers is bringing new and better products to the market for the consumer.

Such is the case with the proposed EchoStar/DirectTV merger. Taking advantage of their respective strengths in product offerings and customer service, the two companies wish to merge and offer more services, more choices and more competitive pricing to television consumers across the country. This is of particular importance to residents of rural communities, which until now might not have had access to, much less a choice, in television providers.

Please give this merger your greatest consideration. Do not stifle a new wave of innovation that will ultimately benefit consumers in all parts of the country.

Sincerely,

Susan Fischetti

CC: Senator Ted Stevens