

Citizens Against Unfair Taxation  
103 West Broad Street, Suite 620, Falls Church, VA 22046

April 30, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of Citizens Against Unfair Taxation, I am writing to urge you to support the proposed merger between EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The merger would promote competition with cable companies in such areas as pay-TV and high-speed Internet access. As a believer in the free market, I can think of no better way to ensure that the public receives the maximum benefits from broadband technology than to allow a merger which permits satellite companies to compete directly with cable companies.

The ability to compete with the all-too-often monopolistic cable companies will be further enhanced by the fact that the new EchoStar would be able to carry local channels in 100 markets, compared to the approximately 40 markets where EchoStar Communications and DirectTV carry local channels today. This local coverage is essential to bringing real competition to the cable companies.

The proposed merger also benefits those rural areas which EchoStar and DIRECTV have served but which have been poorly served by cable. The prospect of affordable, satellite-based high-speed Internet access, available anywhere in the country at the same price, is a major step forward in bringing the benefits of the Information Age to all citizens, regardless of where they live.

The merger means more competition. More competition ensures better service and prices for the public. Equally important, more competition in this area ensures the public will see the obvious benefits of the broadband future sooner.

I urge you and the Federal Communications Commission quickly approve the proposed merger. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Flaherty"