

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

This is a copy of a letter I recently wrote to Joann Emerson who is my U.S. Congress Woman.

Dear JoAnn

I recently received your letter in reference to the proposed merger between Echostar (DishTV) and General Motors Hughes (Direct TV). I had indicated in my letter to you that I was fully in favor of the merger since it would provide me and other rural customers with more and better services. Your letter however indicated that you and several of your colleagues were concerned about the merger. In my opinion, due to bandwidth limitations, there is no way that either company acting alone can provide the TV channels, the broadband service, and the high definition channels that we rural folks desire. However by combining the bandwidth of both companies they can provide it all. Furthermore, in doing so, they can provide a real solution to the lack of competition for the cable companies and their attendant high prices. If the satellite companies agree that they will charge the rural customers no more than the city customers then we can't lose because they have to compete with the cable companies in the cities. And they have already agreed to do that. On top of that they have now proposed to rebroadcast every local channel in the country. What a deal!!
I have copied a news brief for your perusal below.

While we are on the subject. Now would be a good time to start legislation making it permissible for citizens to watch whatever TV station they desire no matter where it is in the country. Many folks move about the country and would like to watch their home channels. Obsolete laws now prevent them from doing so and force them to watch local channels which may have no interest for them. Why is it that I can listen to WBBM radio from Chicago but I can't watch KSDK TV St. Louis unless I live in 'over the air' distance from St. Louis. It doesn't make sense does it. The National Association of Broadcasters have had it all their way long enough. It's time to give the citizens a break and give them the freedom to watch whatever they want to watch.

P.S. Sorry I missed you at the Lincoln Days activities. We were cruising around Australia and New Zealand at the time.

Respectfully,
Paul Fleetwood
Doniphan, Mo.

Sincerely,

Paul Fleetwood
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