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From: "Nick Gage" <nickgage@bigfoot.com>
To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 13, 2001 11:13 PM
Subject: Echostar/DirecTv Merger

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Powell:

I just wanted to drop you a note to ask that you and your staff to please look very closely at the proposed merger between Echostar and DirecTv. While the parties involved may try to spin this merger as being them against the cable industry, it being a boon for consumers and great for competition, I ask that you look at this from a different angle.

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It is my opinion that they are *not* trying to compete against the cable companies but that they are trying to monopolize the digital broadcast satellite programming industry. If this happens there will be 14.6 million consumers out there who will no longer have viable choices due to equipment investments and will be at the whim of a monopoly that can raise prices and cut services as they see fit. If this merger goes through the combined company also will not have to worry about being punished by the government because, in most cases, the U.S. government gets so bogged down in bureaucracy and politics that it will be years before anything of substance happens.

(Handwritten note)

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In closing, I ask that you see this merger for what it is and oppose it.

Thank you for your time.

L. Nick Gage
Coppell, Tx.

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