

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Echostar / Direct TV Merger

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opinion on the upcoming merger of Echostar and Direct TV. I believe that information is key to our very survival as Americans. It occurred to me that Alcidia terrorists are able to obtain more information about what=19s going on in their native country than the average American can from his home state. The recent FCC law prohibits us from gaining access to distant networks for fear that it would infringe on the advertisement revenue of the local market. I live and shop in Colorado Springs but do not share in the political views and entertainment options available in this area. As American citizens, it is vital that we keep informed on national events from a variety of sources to determine the true nature of the occurrence. I feel that the merger of Echostar and Direct TV will provide more opportunities for us to keep abreast of the happenings in several local and distance markets. Yes, I live in Colorado but would like to subscribe to distance networks to sample the local flavor of other cities and towns. We are a mobile society and the best way to assess a community before making the final move is to study the news from a local viewpoint. The national news service only broadcast the big stories. I would like to know about local events and human-interest stories focused on a particular area and the only way to do that is to have other markets available to viewers across the nation.

Sincerely,

Ken Gathings
1810 Vickers Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80918