

American Sons of Columbus

2415 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64124
TEL: 816-231-9468
FAX: 816-241-8680

April 26, 2002

The Hon. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Re: FCC Docket # 01-348

Dear Mr. Powell:

Imagine my surprise to learn that some officials have antitrust questions about the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications Corp. (the Dish Network) and Hughes Electronics Corp. (DirecTV), which is pending before the Department of Justice and the FCC.

What about cable television's 80% control of the pay TV market (which is protected by government franchises)? What about the stranglehold on high-speed Internet access held by cable companies and telephone companies (also protected by governments)?

The beauty of the Dish/DirecTV merger is that, by eliminating duplicative programming and freeing up spectrum, it will enable Direct Satellite Broadcast service to challenge the monopolies that cable and phone companies have in providing access to the best in TV and the Internet.

At last, the merged company will be able to provide meaningful competition for the telephone and cable TV companies – a clear benefit to the countless Americans who now suffer with the monopolies. Please support our satellite technology.

Sincerely,

Tom Gialde
President