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MARK GREEN
8TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 29, 2002

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

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Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in regards to the pending application for the Echostar and DirecTV merger. As you know, numerous organizations have expressed support for this merger because of the potential benefits it could bring to the satellite television marketplace, particularly in rural areas.

Among the more notable promises made by the Echostar/DirecTV representatives are a high-speed Internet access service, the provision of local station coverage in every television market in the U.S and a nationwide price for all customers.

Certainly, these potential benefits would be a tremendous development for those who live in more rural areas that do not enjoy the same kind of advantages as those living in more urban areas. The digital divide - something we are all concerned about - could finally be addressed and the playing field could be leveled for all Americans. Also, this merger could mean that finally, after years of trying, there could at last be a true and viable alternative to cable television.

I do have some concerns about the loss of competition for many satellite television customers in rural areas that do not have access to cable television. I want nothing more than to see the promises made by the Echostar/DirecTV parties come to fruition - that will be of great benefit to my district.

However, I urge you to structure any merger approval to ensure that rural communities are not placed at any competitive disadvantage. You should also maintain whatever regulatory tools you need to rein in any onerous monopolistic actions by the newly merged company.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views.

Best Regards,
Mark Green
Mark Green
Member of Congress

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