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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/Hughes merger... I currently access Internet Services at an 'astounding' rate of 26.4K(All my rural telephone provider can support)... I cannot receive FOX/NBC w/o an external antenna of 40+ feet in height... Even then the signal is pretty poor and sometimes weather all but kills the signal altogether... I have been a EchoStar customer since 06/1999 and have nothing but accolades for the service... We do have local access to a rural microwave cable system but it also requires a 40 foot antenna for reception...Where I live here in Texas, storms take out antennas with a great deal of frequency and replacement is not cheap...

I know that you get innundated w/little people like me doing things like this, but I do hope that voices in rural America are heard and this merger is approved... I moved into this rural area by choice and realize not all things are available... However, this one act would improve our quality of life immensely...

Sincerely,

Steve Grounds
P. O. Box 219 8219 FM765E
Millersview, TX 76862