

March 19, 2002

Dear Chairman Powell:

We have been satellite consumers for the last three years. Our home, located in a rural area outside of Portsmouth, Ohio, has the option of cable, but the cable company has not updated its cable technology for over 20 years. Because of this, the cable reception is at best fuzzy, at worst non-existent. We have lost service too often to be counted. Unfortunately, we consider cable a necessity in order to receive local news and weather warnings.

We decided to also purchase a DirecTV system so that we could have improved reception/picture and a variety of other stations (ESPN, Home and Garden TV, MSNBC, History Channel, The Learning Channel, et. al.), but in order to get our local information, we must turn off the satellite and manually change the connection. Needless to say, this represents an inconvenience as well as diminished reception, much below our expectations in today's highly technological world.

With the merger of DirecTV and DishTV, we could now be able to receive local news and weather on our satellite system. This comes as not only a desired change for convenience and quality, but also as a desired change financially. We would be able to pay only a single bill to the satellite company as opposed to doubling up payments for an out-dated cable reception plus the satellite. The merger of these two companies brings an obvious benefit to us and our family.

Also, the benefit of DSL or cable modem service could mean an increase in Internet speed and functions. As with most of America, the Internet and all of its functions have become an integral part of our daily lives. These improvements the merger would create will likely not be possible anytime soon in our area if the merger is not approved.

We ask for your support of this merger. It spells real benefits for Ohio families and consumers.

Sincerely,

Charles D. and Nonda Struewing Harvey