

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you today as current satellite TV subscribers who would like to add our voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like us, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies. We live 16 miles from the nearest town offering cable and 153 miles from the nearest TV stations. We cannot get local news, weather or sports. This merger would make us better informed citizens of our county, state and country.

By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. This merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give us a competitive choice for Internet access in our rural community where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, we urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Oliver & Arleen Hixson  
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A, OK 73832