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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 5, 2002

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

*MP
EchoStar
Pi
MKP
2200*

The Honorable Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St, NW
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the merger between DISH Network (EchoStar) and DirecTV (Hughes).

This merger, between America's two largest satellite providers, is important to consumers throughout Ohio's 7th Congressional District. While many of my constituents have the competitive option of a cable provider, the majority of my district is rural and the households in these areas depend on companies such as EchoStar and Hughes to provide their television service.

In Ohio, only our three major cities of Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland have television markets that provide a fully competitive, multi-channel alternative to cable that also provides local channel service. This means that nine of Ohio's twelve television markets have no true alternative to cable. The merger between EchoStar and Hughes will increase Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) capacity, and thus provide consumers in Ohio, and across the United States, with access to local broadcast channels, along with the consistent sound and picture quality that comes along with DBS service.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter, and request that you consider my views to the extent possible under federal law and regulations.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. HOBSON
Member of Congress

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