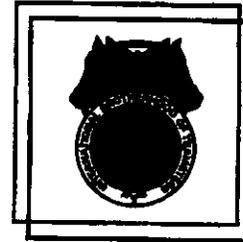




# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

AFL-CIO

*C-2. P28073*



OFFICE OF  
JAMES P. HOFFA  
GENERAL PRESIDENT

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April 16, 2002

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**MAY 28 2002**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
Federal Communications Commission Building  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to express the opposition of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) to the proposed EchoStar/Hughes Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) merger. We strongly oppose this deal that would grant a DBS monopoly to a corporation with a deplorable track record of customer and labor relations.

EchoStar has made no secret of its militant anti-union stance and has refused to bargain in good faith with its union employees. Instead, EchoStar has resorted to a pattern of threats and dismissals in an attempt to intimidate workers from a number of unions. IBT Local 205 in Western Pennsylvania won an organizing drive and has been attempting to win a first contract with EchoStar. The Company has been engaging in stalling tactics and refusing to enter into meaningful negotiations.

If EchoStar treats its own employees in such a disgraceful manner, the treatment of customers can only be worse. Numerous consumer groups have already spoken out against the merger for this very reason. Tens of millions of rural consumers will be left at the mercy of an EchoStar monopoly if this merger is approved.

Promises made by EchoStar to allay fears of its proposed monopoly have already been contradicted by company officials and lawyers. EchoStar has backtracked on its promise of "national pricing," speaking openly of the necessity of exemptions from such a plan. The promise to carry local stations in all 210

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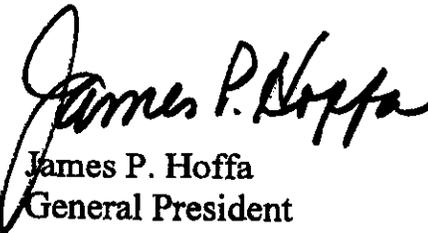
The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
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markets nationwide was also broken within days of being made. Despite the promise, EchoStar continues to pursue a case to void a 1999 law requiring DBS carriage of local television stations. Having lost several appeals, EchoStar filed in early March with the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the law. In that filing, EchoStar specifically states that if it prevails in the high court and the merger is approved, "The merged entity does not intend to carry all channels in every market."

I sincerely hope that you will carefully weigh the potential harm to consumers and workers nationwide if the EchoStar/Hughes merger is allowed to proceed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

  
James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/cwl