

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Dear Sirs:

I am a current satellite TV subscriber and also an Illinois voter. I wish to express my desire and concerns involving satellite TV and the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. I am in full support of said merger and would like to inform you of my reasons.

In Illinois, as you well know, if it is not in Chicago it must not exist. I live and work in the State Capital, Springfield, and travel through out the entire state, yes, I am a state employee. This pending merger would allow those citizens not in the Chicago, or St. Louis areas the opportunity to receive local programming without depending on a local cable company. Situated in Springfield gives rise to a unique situation in that our network affiliates reach from Springfield all the way to Champaign, but now we can no longer even get Champaign (CBS) over the air.

My other concern is equal protection under the law... Why are only those citizens living in densely populated areas, i.e. New York, Chicago, L.A., etc. afforded the right to view their local stations and the rest of us or not? I understand the logistical problem of not enough satellite channels, but that would be cured by the merger, would it not? The FCC does not even allow us to subscribe to a near by area even though two of the three networks do not serve the geographical area in which I live.

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

Sincerely,

Donald Hopper
2600 Chase Dr.
Springfield, IL 62704