

United States Senate

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Respectfully Referred to:

Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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JUN 18 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Please Respond To:

Office of Senator Jim Inhofe
453 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4721

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with the return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Mar 13 12 47 PM '02

James M. Inhofe, U.S.S.

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List ABCDE

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

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LARRY WATKINS, General Manager and Executive Vice President

January 25, 2002

Senator James Inhofe
453 Senate Russell Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe,

Americans living outside the reach of cable or fiber optic networks currently have access to vital telecommunication services from only two providers... EchoStar (the DISH network) and Hughes Electronics (DirectTV). They have proposed a merger. This would leave consumers with no choice in providers, whereas they currently may choose between two fiercely competitive satellite providers.

We would respectfully urge you to request that Attorney General Ashcroft and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Powell closely consider the merger prior to approval. Should the merger be approved without appropriate consumer protections, millions of rural consumers could be negatively impacted as to price, quality and access to vital telecommunications services.

Over ninety members of Congress, including Oklahoma Congressmen Lucas, Carson and Watkins have signed a joint letter to Attorney General Ashcroft and Chairman Powell, urging their careful scrutiny. You may wish to add your name to that letter or simply urge their scrutiny through your own channels.

Thanks for your consideration and we appreciate all you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Larry".
Larry Watkins

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