

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing in support of the proposed merger of the satellite TV systems of EchoStar ('Dish Network') and DirecTV.

Last week we subscribed to Dish Network because we wanted High Definition TV capabilities (which our rural cable company cannot yet provide). We purchased the system in anticipation of the 2006 deadline for the implementation of HDTV.

At the present time Dish Network cannot provide our local Montgomery, AL channels that carry the major broadcast networks (NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, PBS, WB, etc). We must receive them by a rooftop antenna and because we are about 60 miles from the nearest transmitter we can only receive the NBC and CBS affiliates (NBC pretty good, CBS somewhat snowy, but ABC, Fox, WB, and PBS not at all). With the merger all of the local channels will be available via satellite.

Also, being in a rural area there is NO high speed internet available to us (I receive regular updates from our internet provider telling us this). With the merger broadband Ka service will be available via satellite at a reasonable cost.

My family urges your support of the merger. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Beckstrom  
90 B-Hive Dr.  
Equality, AL 36026