

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing this to encourage you to vote against the merger of Echostar and Hughes (Direct TV). As a five year subscriber of Echostar I have seen the same price increases as have occurred in cable television. With only one cable provider and one satellite provider (after the merger), competition will be seriously impaired. Echostar has already isolated the number of retailers to a small number and charges exhorbitant rates for service calls. Current subscribers who wish to add or change their systems pay far more than a new subscriber. You can guess what these rates will do without competition.

Vote against the merger. We now see what the results of merger-mania are with Worldcom, Enron and the others. This merger will simply make Charlie Ergen and his wife richer with only a promise of wider service, which will probably occur anyway if there is interest in the marketplace.

Sincerely,

James Oehm
982 Sleepy Hollow Rd.
Golden, CO 80401