

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 letter in support of the proposed merger between EchoStar and Hughes Communications. The biggest issue for my family is the availability of local broadcast stations. We live in a rural area of extreme northeast Kansas. We would like to have access to the networks from the Kansas City area, but currently we are blocked from them because we live within the broadcast territory of an ABC affiliate in St. Joseph, MO. My understanding of the proposed merger is that it would allow my family the availability of not only the St. Joseph and Kansas City stations, but also the stations in Topeka, KS as well. I am a farmer. My livelihood is greatly influenced by weather. Having access to varied sources of weather forecasting provided by multiple local stations' newscasts would certainly be beneficial to myself and many other farmers as well. Additionally, I also understand that the proposed merger would make high speed internet service available here. I can't tell you the number of hours I've wasted in front of my computer while trying to get grain and cattle commodity market information by way of our current slow dial-up internet service provider. Please help us out here by allowing this merger to proceed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Wright  
3181 Redbud Road  
White Cloud, KS 66094