

February 21, 2002

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th SW
Washington DC 20554

To Whom it May Concern:

As a small business person in Anchorage, I urge you to support the EchoStar/DirectTV merger. From what I've read, I'm particularly excited about the benefits the merger will bring to rural Alaskan communities.

As you are aware, our rural communities are often underserved by the cable television industry. This merger will allow rural communities the choice of using EchoStar/DirectTV television service or service through a local cable provider. As a result of the merger, EchoStar will be able to offer more channels, including local channels, and compete head-to-head with the local cable companies. This was not the case previously.

Competition of this sort means the consumer ultimately wins. The end result will be lower costs and more choices for the television customer. I urge you to support the merger and help to further enliven rural Alaskan communities.

Sincerely,

George Kallas, President
Alaska Coalition of Small Business
11800 Nebesna
Anchorage, Alaska 99516