

KCHACE

Kansas City Hispanic Association Contractors Enterprise

March 8, 2002

The Hon. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

**Re: EchoStar/DirecTV merger
FCC Docket # 01-348**

Dear Mr. Powell:

Did you see the news? That merger of DirecTV and Dish Network is looking even better. As you know, a proposed merger between EchoStar Communications Corp. (the Dish Network) and Hughes Electronics Corp. (DirecTV) is pending before the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission. Now, EchoStar and Hughes have sweetened the pot by pledging that, by 2005, the merged EchoStar would be able to offer local TV channels, high-speed Internet service and more – not just in the 40 or so markets the company now serves, not just in the 100 markets they first expected to serve, but in all 210 markets *across the entire United States*.

This merger was already a good idea: It has the potential to greatly improve competition, not just in pay TV, but in high-speed Internet access too. Cable TV companies currently control approximately 80 percent of the pay TV market – a monopoly enforced by government franchises – and a sizable percentage of broadband Internet access too.

With twice as much spectrum, within which it can eliminate the two previous companies' duplicative programming, the new EchoStar will be able to take Direct Broadcast Satellite service nationwide, for both television and the Internet. Consumers, who have either been captive audiences for cable or, in rural areas, unable to get full TV or high-speed Internet service at all, clearly will be the prime beneficiaries.

I urge you to support the EchoStar/DirecTV merger. Why *not* allow all of America to benefit from our satellite technology?

Thank you for your time and attention,

Jerry B. Adriano
Management Consultant