

# Kingston Environmental Services

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**Re: Docket # 01-348**

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 – 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Powell:

I ask you to support the EchoStar/Direct TV merger pending before the F.C.C. because it will provide significant tangible benefits to consumers. The new company, EchoStar, will be an effective and viable alternative to cable companies, which today control 80% of the pay television households in the United States. I like the idea of having a good alternative to cable. Also, with the increase in competition from Direct Broadcast Satellite, cable companies would have an incentive to enhance their own product and services.

The EchoStar/Direct TV merger will free up more satellite space because duplicative programs will be eliminated. EchoStar would be able to offer significantly more educational, specialty and foreign language programming than it could before. The merger would result in business efficiencies and economies of scale, allowing them to operate at a lower cost than the two companies did separately. Too, I am told the cost to extend cable to underserved rural areas is expensive and that cost means higher rates for a customer in rural areas; compared to simply connecting a satellite dish to your TV for a small installation fee. The price or cost to the consumer for satellite TV would be the same whether you live on a farm or have a home in the city.

The new merged company would make a difference in many rural areas of our country that do not have access to high speed internet service. EchoStar will be able to provide interactive TV educational programs in all of our schools and videos on demand. The educational opportunities and quality programming choices will be increased, at an affordable rate.

In closing, this merger will increase competition with the cable companies that have a virtual monopoly in most every urban market, and deliver more program choices and improved services to our rural areas at a competitive price. As a consumer and having more time on my hands to watch a little more television in the last few years, we certainly need better programs, more choices, at a cost everyone can afford. I hope you agree and can support the EchoStar/Direct TV merger.

Respectfully,

William H. Worley

*(transcription – original on file; call (816) 561-7555)*