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February 14, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

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MAY 14 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to encourage your favorable consideration of the pending merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics which is pending before the Department of Justice. While there are some who argue that the merger will inhibit competition, I believe that the new company will pave the way for greater competition with the cable companies who control about 80% of the pay television households in the United States. It is my understanding that the pending transaction will be subject to thorough and comprehensive review by the Federal Communications Commission and by state and federal antitrust authorities to ensure that it is in the public interest.

The new company will also be able to reach additional markets because of the programming and administrative efficiencies realized by the proposed merger. I believe that the merger will enhance competitiveness and service in both rural and urban areas. Direct broadcast satellite TV offered by the newly merged company will be able to provide interactive educational programs in many schools. This is just another example of permitting a viable competitor to deliver more program choices and improved services.

I encourage you to review the facts and hope that you can support the merger.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KLARICH  
State Senator

DJK/pw

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