

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I work for a rural electric cooperative in Fort Collins, Colorado. I realize that NRTC, on behalf of Rural America, is opposed to the merger. There is a parochial interest because of their relationship with DirectTV.

I believe that escalating costs for programming will be curtailed with one large satellite tv company competing against the cable companies. Pricing controls for STV providers would be enhanced. Competition between DirectTV and Dishnetwork does little to keep costs down if the price of programming is the driving cost of rate increases. Let stv viewers compete on a more level field with cable providers when dealing with programmers.

A nationwide price structure should allay any fears rural viewers have regarding the lack of competition increasing their costs.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Gene Landwehr  
4113 Beaver Creek Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80526