

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. I had to get a waiver to even get a distant ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX channel as I could not get them clearly with an antenna in my area because of the distance and mountain interference. This did not give me local news and I had to watch fuzzy TV to get local news and weather and sports. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming.

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

Resident of Roscommon, MI and winter in Las Cruces, NM Both places have poor antenna reception.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Lawrence
PO Box 338
Roscommon, MI 48653