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JAN 17 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: tonopahrangerat@hotmail.com  
Date: 11/14/01 10:28:16 AM  
To: webmail@reid-iq.senate.gov  
Subject: www\_email

1. Congress will soon be addressing the Echostar/Hughes merger. For most rural folks, this merger will reduce competition, since we have no cable access. I live in Round Mountain, where the only available TV is satellite.
2. Most rural dwellers in the intermountain west have no TV access to the major cities in their state. This is true not just of Nevada, but Colorado, Utah, Idaho and New Mexico. In Northern Nye County, I have no access to Las Vegas television or newspapers.
3. Most of the political and cultural events in Nevada (and the rest of the intermountain west) happen in our larger cities.
3. The Echostar/Hughes merger will not only reduce my TV options, it will free up satellite bandwidth through the reduction of duplicate services. This extra bandwidth could be used to provide rural access to regional news and information.
4. Any consideration by the Senate of the Echostar/Hughes merger should address additional local channel service. This additional service should include providing access to those of us in rural locations (i.e., it should not be based upon the industry's idea of service areas, but upon regional need).
5. I would appreciate Sen. Reid's involvement in this issue. Providing Las Vegas, or Boise, or Reno, TV channels to rural locations is probably a financial loss to satellite TV suppliers, but if they are asking for a total monopoly over rural service, I think it would be a very reasonable request, and one that would be appropriate for the Senate to consider. Based upon the isolation of rural Nevada, it would be an especially relevant issue for Sen. Reid.

Respectfully,  
Raymond C. Lee

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here =====

<APP>SCCMail  
 <PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>  
 <FIRST>Raymond</FIRST>  
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 <ADDR1>P.O. Box 3783</ADDR1>  
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List A B C D E

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