

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.

If there are fears of a monopoly, I think they are unfounded. Currently, cable companies have a government-sponsored monopoly in that there may be only one cable company per city (or market). Cable still has over 75% of the TV-viewing households in the U.S. today, so I do not think that the availability of satellite is going to cause them to go bankrupt. And even if it did, I would submit to you that it is the responsibility of the federal government to look out for the consumers, not the big cable lobby. After all, competition is good for consumers, right? Are the cable companies afraid that they cannot compete? They have over 75% of the market, yet it isn't enough for them!

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

Sincerely,

Jonathan Leffingwell
2503 Serene Ct.
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043