

**DEFENDERS OF
PROPERTY RIGHTS**

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"[N]OR SHALL PRIVATE PROPERTY BE TAKEN FOR PUBLIC USE,
WITHOUT JUST COMPENSATION." U.S. CONST. AMEND. V.

May 6, 2002

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

This letter is to express our strong support for a proposed merger between EchoStar and DIRECTV. This merger represents a free market solution to the current public policy problem of limited market access and would breathe new life into a television market long dominated by cable companies.

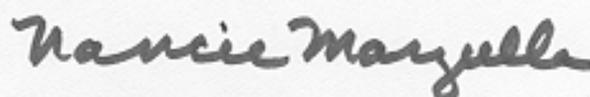
As the only national public interest legal foundation dedicated exclusively to property rights protection, Defenders of Property Rights is pleased to express support for agency proposals that will enhance the free market economy. Our large national membership stands behind the fundamental principle of free market enterprise made possible by the vigorous defense of private property rights.

As we understand it, this proposed merger provides a solution for many rural communities across the country who are even today without cable television access. We further understand that EchoStar and DIRECTV have agreed to maintain fair pricing for rural service to ensure that consumers in those communities will not be exploited simply because their new satellite service is the only television service available.

In short, this merger proposal seems exactly the kind of innovative, market-based solution this administration supports.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter.

Yours truly,



Nancie G. Marzulla
President