

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 AGAINST the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will create an enormous monopoly in the home satellite communications industry, all natural price controls will disappear and there will not be any incentive to provide quality service or improve service (please refer to the anti-trust suit against ATT several years ago). No benefits to consumers like me will be realized by this merger, when huge corporations have control of the market they always take advantage of it. The consumer will suffer the consequences of this merger. However, since most consumers that will be held hostage by this act live in rural areas where cable is not available and are spread through several voting districts, they will not constitute a significant voting block, and since EchoStar probably makes huge contributions to several election campaigns, it's a safe bet that this and any other letter like this will be ignored.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger and will be able to control, at will, access to services such as local TV and the internet. They will be able to pick and choose who gets what. Think of the POLITICAL ramifications!!! Any one who disagrees with them or any politician who submits legislation to control them will be subject to their wrath. Look, for example, to countries where the government controls the media. Is that what we want in our country? The only way to insure an honest media is to guarantee that there is equal competition in every media.

In the interest of improving access and competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to deny your support to this merger. This is bad for families and bad for America

Sincerely,

Don May
po box 418
Crocker, MO 65452