

February 4, 2002

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

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-418-0232

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to approve the proposed merger of EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics/DIRECTV. This merger will bring more services, more choices, and stronger competition to Missouri and the entire nation.

As President of the Missouri Chamber, I am deeply committed to growing Missouri's economy and business infrastructure. I understand the importance and necessity of competition and choice in the marketplace. The merger between EchoStar and DIRECTV will provide consumers with more programming options, more competitive pricing and an alternative to cable for paid television service.

The proposed merger would also enable the new company to provide high-speed Internet access to every Missourian across the state and every American across the country. The merger creates market-based incentives for the new company to invest in a satellite broadband network capable of serving every home and business in Missouri, and particularly in rural Missouri where cable and DSL are unlikely to ever serve. If the merger is not approved, the rural areas of Missouri will lack the telecommunications infrastructure necessary for economic growth in the 21st century. This is good for Missouri consumers Missouri businesses and for all America.

Again, I urge you to approve the proposed merger of EchoStar Communication and Hughes Electronics/DIRECTV. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Mehan  
President/CEO