

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I support the Echostar-DirectTV merger because it means the most effective use of bandwidth and orbital slots - eliminating duplicative programming on multiple satellites. I recognize the fact that they will replace my Dish 500 dish with a DirectTV Para Todos dish if the merger is approved.

I wish to express concern over the merged company's ability to dictate (raise) rates in a potentially national monopolistic way.

I believe that the FCC needs to protect consumer's investment in satellite receiving hardware. Investing \$300-\$400 in hardware with the presumption of one monthly rate, only to see rates increase in the future with no recourse does not serve the interest of any consumer.

I would remind you of the ineffectiveness of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, aimed at reducing CATV rates - it actually had the effect of raising rates.

Lets make sure that the merged company makes enough money to survive, innovate, and provide excellent customer service. Lets make sure that growth in revenues are recognized through growth in subscribers and growth in expanded tiered subscriptions and services - not on the backs of people who, like myself, simply want local channels, CNN, CSPAN and CNBC.

Sincerely,

A.C. Mendiones
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