

I am writing you to urge the delay or block of the EchoStar/Hughes merger on the following grounds

1 - A merger is not a mandate for providing consumers with Local Channel Broadcast. Echostar and Hughes can agree to divide the country into two halves, each company can serve one half with local programming. This Solomon like solution insure that all consumers will get local channel broadcast and still not lead to the creation of a Monopoly.

2 - Creating a monopoly through this merger will hinder the entry of new services and technologies into the market. Time should be given to new technologies like Northpoint to take foothold in the market and create an option for consumers.

EchoStar and Hughes should be advised to consider using technology like that of Northpoint to augument their local programming without the creation of a monopoly.

Best Regards

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