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March 14, 2002

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND HAND DELIVERY

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445-12th Street
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice, CS Docket No. 01-348

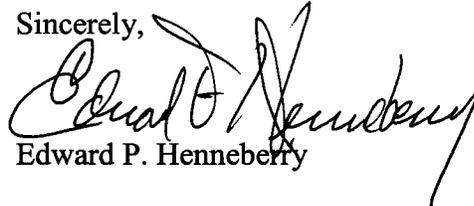
Dear Mr. Caton:

The National Association of Broadcasters submits this letter as an objection to the attempt by EchoStar Communications Corporation, General Motors Corporation and Hughes Electronics Corporation (Applicants) to circumvent the established procedures of the Commission in responding to the Commission's February 4, 2002 request for additional information regarding the proposed merger. The NAB agrees with the specific objections of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative in its March 13, 2002 letter regarding why the Commission should reject any attempt to narrow the scope of its information request.

More fundamentally, however, the NAB has the right to participate fully in the Commission's review of the proposed merger. This participation includes the ability to examine the Applicants' documentary materials in support of their argument that the proposed merger would be in the public interest. According to its mandate to conduct merger review openly, the Commission has established appropriate safeguards under the Administrative Procedures Act to facilitate the examination of the Applicants' sensitive documents. The NAB protests any cut-back in its ability to review these documents. The Commission should reject this untimely attempt by the Applicants to set their own rules.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Edward P. Henneberry

Counsel to the National Association of
Broadcasters

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Donald Abelson
James Bird
Catherine Crutcher Bohigian
Rosalee Chiara
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