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May 23, 2002

Hon. Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 01-348

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Americans are confronted with a variety of taxes and fees imposed by government directly—and indirectly. Personal income, gasoline, excise and other taxes are obvious. Less conspicuous are the costs of government regulation—and the costs associated with regulatory delay that keeps prices of goods and services higher than they should be.

It is with the benefits of competition in mind that we urge immediate approval of the merger between EchoStar and DirecTV, because the merged company would be better able to compete in the overall telecommunications market. Any delay in this merger results in a hidden tax (a continuation of higher prices) on customers.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

LEWIS K. UHLER