

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

On May 17 International Telecommunication Day - Information and Communication for All ' Empowering people to cross the Digital Divide marks ITU's mark on promoting the true mission of telecommunications.

The mission of Mr Ergen is to do just that. He has spent time and money trying to build a Dish network in Asia and in the developing world. So that all can be connected. It is sad that even in the US, Rural America is still not given access and only one choice. Satellite services obviously compete with cable. So NRTC's position of creating no choice is ridiculous. My second home in Rural america now has choice, and I have said no to cable's outragoeus costs. Remember, at the end of the day, DTH services are cheaper than laying cable. And, with that in mind, echostar can provide a cost effective alternative to Rural America.

On entrepreneurship. By supporting the merger we are saluting the brilliant entrepreneurial spirit of Charlie Ergen. Where he humbly started selling c band dishes to rural america, and now wants through the merger to provide a more efficient platform to serve them and to serve the rest of the world.

Let us support Charlie's initiative and approve the merger and empower the people to cross the digital divide.

Let us not forget that he has supported distance learning and education. Wiht a combined force, he can better deliver a cost effective educational network to all children and students across the US.

Tom Navasero

(I finally cancelled cable in salute to Mr. Ergens entrepreneuerial and ITU spirit.)

Sincerely,

Tom Navasero
542 Craig Rd
Hillsborough, CA 94010