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OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAUS

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 7, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As you know, our organization exists to encourage people and businesses to visit, enjoy and invest in Ohio. Getting them settled in appropriate hotel, motel, inn or B&B is often the first crucial step. Linking people with the right accommodations is an increasingly high-tech undertaking. Even the smallest guesthouse can't survive without at least an Internet site, but one-way communication isn't enough.

Members of the lodging industry in Ohio have to depend on high-speed Interactive cyber communications. More important, our guests and potential guests expect them. Therefore, the members of the Ohio Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus recognize the need for widespread availability of digital broadband connections, and that is why we ask you to support the proposed merger of satellite TV carriers EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The post-merger company would have the technical and financial resources to offer America nationwide delivery of broadband services via satellite. Interactive broadband service would be available to every home and small business in America just as easily as satellite TV programming is available now. For those of us in Ohio who provide hospitality professionally, this is an unprecedented opportunity to interact with potential guests from around the world and help sell Ohio.

We hope we can count on you to encourage the FCC to approve this merger promptly and without crippling conditions. This is one merger that offers a good deal for Ohio and rest of the country. Please do whatever you can to see that this opportunity doesn't slip away.

Sincerely,

Diana Thompson

Diana Thompson
President
Ohio Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus

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