

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I agree with the entirety of the following general statement regarding the Echostar-DirectTV merger. Specifically, I live 20 miles outside of Lexington, KY, in the countryside. I have no access to cable. I have no access to DSL. I will soon be working from home and require high bandwidth internet connectivity. Satellite will be my only option. Additionally, my local TV reception is poor, even being this close to Lexington. I have a high quality, 61" TV, but my local reception is utterly ridiculous, even with an antenna. Why shouldn't I be able to watch network tv without all the ghosts and fadeouts? I have requested exemptions in the past to get network broadcasts, even from far-away cities, but have been rejected by my local stations. Please help by supporting this merger. I would suggest that as a condition of the merger, an upgrade schedule is filed and adequate penalties be applied should there be non-conformance.

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Robert Patterson  
128 Lake Country Road  
Nicholasville, KY 40356