

# Missouri Senate

**Edward E. Quick**

17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

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**Re: Docket # 01-348**

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 – 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am contacting you to ask your support for the Echostar/Direct TV merger. The benefits to consumers will mean more programming choices, and competitive price. This merger, if approved by the F.C.C. and D.O.J., will provide an excellent alternative to cable television. Today cable television controls nearly 80% of the pay television market with little or no competition because of their franchises. Real competition will only keep rapid growing cable prices down and be an incentive for them to give the consumer better service.

The under served rural areas will also benefit from the merger because of the potential use of interactive television and broadband internet access in schools and businesses. The cost to install cable in rural areas is very high, and Direct Broadcast Satellite TV is relatively cheap because it is just a simple matter of hooking a small satellite dish to your television – the infrastructure is already in place. I encourage you to look at the facts and support this merger.

Sincerely,

Edward E. Quick  
Missouri State Senator

*(transcription – original on file; call (816) 561-7555)*