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January 16, 2002

01-348

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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 pricing. 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 household 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

EEQ/kc

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