

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. If you have been back to Louisiana lately you know that the cable providers have no real competition. I am still forced to use them if I want to receive local channels or broadband internet access. Without effective competition, the cable companies provide shockingly poor service because they know we have no where else to turn.

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 addition, there will be a real alternative for high speed Internet access. These benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger.

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

Sincerely,

Richard Collarini
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Covington, LA 70435