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

**Re: EchoStar/DIRECTV merger**

Dear Mr. Powell:

Currently pending before the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC Docket # 01-348) is a proposed merger between EchoStar Communications Corp. (the DISH Network) and Hughes Electronics Corp. (DIRECTV).

I would ask that you support this merger, which has the potential to greatly improve competition, not just in the pay TV market, but in the high-speed Internet access market too. Cable TV companies currently control approximately 80 percent of the pay TV market – a virtual monopoly that is enforced by their government franchises. On top of that, the cable companies also control a sizable percentage of broadband Internet access.

The merged EchoStar will be able to eliminate duplicative programming within the much broader spectrum that will be available to it, thus enabling its Direct Broadcast Satellite service to compete on a more level footing for both television and Internet customers. This can only help consumers, who have largely been captive audiences for cable.

Again, I ask you to support the EchoStar/DIRECTV merger, to enable our satellite technology to benefit American users of these crucial communications media.

Thanking you for your time and  
attention,

Michelle Rebman