

T W O W O R L D S

Dos Mundos

El Periódico Bilingüe Para la Comunidad Hispana de Kansas City desde 1981

March 25, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Powell:

It is true that the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications Corp. (Dish Network) and Hughes Electronics Corp. (DirecTV) would create a larger player in the Direct Broadcast Satellite market. But that's not the monopoly we should be worried about.

The monopoly that bothers me is in pay TV, where cable companies have some 80% of the market, and in broadband Internet access over cable. This is the monopoly that actually controls access to these 21st-century technologies; and this is the monopoly where real competition can be introduced by the EchoStar merger. (Pending before the FCC and the DOJ – FCC Docket # 01-348.)

The merger will free up spectrum that the two companies currently use for duplicative programs, which will enable the merged EchoStar to greatly expand Direct Broadcast Satellite services – thus helping to bridge the “Digital Divide” that keeps rural residents, for example, from enjoying the full benefits of today's technologies.

By making it possible for EchoStar to expand and improve its Direct Broadcast Satellite services, this merger will provide genuine competition in the television and Internet markets. I hope you will support it.

Yours truly,

Edward M. Reyes
Creative Director

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