

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please do NOT allow the EchoStar-DIRECTV merger to proceed!

I write to you as a current DIRECTV subscriber. There are millions of us in remote, rural areas who have no cable television and no hope of ever getting it. If this merger is allowed to proceed, there will be absolutely no competition in television delivery for people like me.

The bigwigs at both companies want everyone to believe that lots of good will come of this merger, but that's a bunch of hooey. The benefits are few, and the potential costs and lost services to consumers are legion.

There is a possible middle ground here. It is horribly expensive to operate the satellites which broadcast the TV signal. Perhaps a merger which would create a single company owning the satellites, but which would have to share access to other (non-affiliated) companies. I see this as being somewhat analagous to the local phone companies who own the wires and central switching offices, yet must share access with other companies. While this system is clearly not working very well today with local telephone service, the idea still has merit.

In closing, I strongly OPPOSE the merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. Please do not allow it to happen.

Sincerely,

David Richter
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