

Missouri House of Representatives

Henry Rizzo

40th District State Representative
Chairman, Commerce Committee

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January 16, 2002

Re: Docket # 01-348

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Powell:

I encourage you to support the ECHOSTAR/Direct TV merger that is pending before the F.C.C. and the D.O.J. Consumers will benefit from the merger because the new merged company will provide true competition to the monopolies the cable companies enjoy today. Just as important the new company ECHOSTAR will be in a greater position to offer: Better services; More choices; and More competitive pricing.

The merger will “free up” spectrum currently used by the two companies because duplicative programs will be eliminated. Some other benefits will be to bridge the “Digital Divide” between urban and rural residents. Competitively priced high speed internet access via satellite will particularly benefit those in rural areas, especially businesses and schools that do not have access to cable modem service or DSL.

The merger will mean more competition, not less, for all consumers. As a result of the merger the cable companies too, will have an economic incentive to provide better services, more programming choices and be competitive. I hope you will support the merger.

Sincerely,

HENRY RIZZO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
District #40

(transcription – original on file; call (816) 561-7555)