

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I have been a subscriber to Dish Network for nearly a year after having Cable TV for over twenty years. I have witnessed Cable rate increases through the years that I thought have been wholly unjustifiable and have been extremely satisfied with the quality, price, and service I have received thus far as a subscriber to Dish Network. I firmly believe the proposed merger of Echostar & Hughes DirectTV would allow many millions of Americans to also enjoy these benefits. As I'm sure you're aware, Cable TV has for decades enjoyed an overwhelming distribution monopoly over the American public. The only 'check' in the balance of fair and reasonable subscription rates and quality service has come about with the advent of satellite TV. But, cable still has the advantage after all this time due to their capability to broadcast local television channels. While local channels ARE now available thru satellite service, they are only available to a small percentage of homes. I happen to be in one of the areas that does not have local channels available by satellite. This is the only complaint I have with being a satellite subscriber. I believe the merger will allow Dish Network & DirectTV to remedy this discrepancy by providing local channel availability nationwide and thus finally allowing all Americans a true television provider 'choice'. In addition, the CEO of Echostar, Charles Egren, has stated that in addition to providing local channels nationwide to all markets, the merger will also allow the distribution capability of additional High Definition TV programming as well as interactive and broadband Internet access, all at a reasonable cost. And since the satellites beam their signals over a wide region without the need to 'wire' each home to a local office, the cost of broadband internet service could be made available and affordable to any American who wishes to subscribe to it, regardless of whether they live in mid-town Manhattan or a remote ranch in Wyoming. There's no denying that the government entertains lobbyists and enjoys and seeks the views expounded by the wealthy, the business elite, and the deep pockets of political contributors...I hope by this letter they also are aware of what the other America thinks.

Sincerely,

Ronald Keckler  
3108 Green Dale Drive  
Rockford, IL 61109