

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you today as current satellite TV subscribers and as small internet business owners in your rural district who would like to add our voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV.

The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like us, including more choices in channels, programming and especially affordable broadband internet access.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television which is not available to us and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to the non available cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming.

Especially exciting to us, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. This service is not available to us now. In fact, it required 40 minutes to just send this message with our current lines. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give us a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future and where our phone lines are so antiquated to be almost unfunctionable.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, we urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Richard and Linda Rogers
Box 53078
Pinos Altos, NM 88053