

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

As an American citizen, I cherish the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

As an American and a Christian, I respectfully request that the merger between Echo Star and Direct TV be stopped for the following reasons:

1. Echo Star has fought hard in court against laws that ensure religious broadcasters' access to satellite television. If Echo Star wins this fight, religious broadcasters will not be able to reach satellite viewers.
2. In addition, Echo Star announced its intention to drop the ABC Family channel, claiming it doesn't have room on its satellites. This is difficult to believe coming from a company that has a half dozen pornographic channels on its TV service.
3. In rural areas, and other parts of the country not reached by cable, TV viewers would no longer have a choice between two providers of satellite TV, as they do today. A monopoly would dramatically affect the availability of religious programming in every rural area in America.
4. Echo Star has fought against the 'must carry' law in court. The 'must carry' law states that any Christian television station in any city 'must be carried' on satellite and cable television. If you watch Christian television over satellite or cable TV right now, Echo Star wants that privilege revoked.

Again, I ask you to help stop this merger. It is not good for America. It is not good for people of faith.

Sincerely,

Debra Sanders
PO Box 1065
Winnie, TX 77665