

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing a letter in support of the merger between Echostar and DirectTV. As I live in the countryside I have two choices for my families TV entertainment, Satellite TV or off air local broadcasters. As I am willing to pay for the higher quality picture that satellite TV provides over off air reception, I choose satellite specifically Dish Network. The opportunity that at this merger gives me is access to high quality picture from my local broadcaster. I can currently only receive 4 channels (ABC, NBC, CBS, & an independent religious channel) on my off air antenna which I have over \$200 invested. Out of these four channels only one comes in with a clear picture (NBC) but I am not eligible under the law to receive distant networks that I am willing to pay for to obtain a better quality picture. Current restrictions are protectionist at best, until I became aware of the FCC regulation that does not allow for a free competitive market for services, I thought I lived in a free market society. All these restrictions do is forbid me from paying for and receiving a service that I want. My hope is that since congress and the FCC failed to level the playing field when they had the opportunity. That you will correct the discrimination that exist between cable, off air local broadcasters and satellite TV. I support the merger and the free market to set prices and service standards not the protectionist attitude of the Networks.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Sapp  
11088 Maple Leaf Lane  
Holts Summit, MO 65043