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Susan A. Sawade
1394 Paseo Ladera Lane
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January 22, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. W. Kenneth Feree,
Chief of Cable Services Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Feree:

Your agency is reviewing the proposed merger of EchoStar Communications Corp. and DirecTV. I hope you will consider the impact this merger may have on rural residents.

Residents of rural areas like ours have been the prime customer base of DirecTV. In fact San Luis Obispo County was one of the original West Coast test areas eight years ago for DirecTV and we were one of the first subscribers.

We do not have cable in our area and cannot get a clear signal on ABC or CBS networks and only get a poor signal from NBC.

We were able to get a waiver from CBS and get that network on DirecTV now but ABC and NBC declined our waiver and we cannot get those two networks.

Please keep the satellite services to the rural areas and restore our network access. In our case if rural service is reduced or made prohibitively expensive it hurts the very areas these services are needed and were designed to fill. We do not have a cable or decent local channel signal alternative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Sawade
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