

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

For more than four years we have been 'doing battle' with the outrageous regulations that restrict the broadcast (via satellite) to OUR home in a rural area of northern California. We have, finally, received waivers for all networks, EXCEPT for NBC. NBC passes waiver authority to the nearest (geographically) broadcast station affiliate, which is in Chico, California, 45 miles to the northwest of us, on the OTHER SIDE of the hill. I have spoken to the station manager and repeatedly been told that we SHOULD be able to receive their signal. Right. If the merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV will allow a FAIR access of these broadcast signals, and at a UNIFORM COST to ALL Americans, then we are 100% FOR this merger! We have been looking forward to it since it was first announced in February.

Now that we know this could also give us access to internet service that is equal to DSL, we are doubly anxious. Last year we purchased a NEW computer, with a 56k modem, only to realize that, as far as the internet goes, we could have gone DOWN to a 32k modem. The OLD phone lines in our area are not capable of speeds beyond 26k!!! Please, support the non-city dwellers of America so we, too, can have access to the same air/cable & internet signals!

Sincerely,

Sandi Caldwell
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Lake Oroville, CA 95966