

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a current DISHNetwork subscriber who would like to voice my support of the proposed merger of EchoStar and Hughes.

As you know, cable television was a major improvement over standard rooftop antennas. But we now see the limitations: service to urbanized areas only and drastically inflating prices in monopolized markets.

Satellite programming is the next wave of television and communications service to American households. The programming is much higher quality, affordable, and available in nearly every part of the United States. And its services can be expanded to offer much more than just television. High speed/broadband internet is just the beginning. Advanced telephone service could be next. The possibilities seem endless.

Fortunately I live in an urban area and have a choice for television service (I chose satellite because it is more affordable and higher quality than cable). But I see this merger as an extremely important step to offer television and advanced communications to RURAL customers throughout the country who have no more than a handful of local television stations. And if the merger is approved, satellite programming would offer a much needed competitor to those high-priced cable television providers.

Please support the merger of DirectTV and DISHNetwork - it can't come soon enough.

Sincerely,

Shawn Christ
407 Catherine St
Washington, IL 61571