

February 21, 2002

To whom it may concern,

Finally, Alaska television consumers are being offered a choice in their television providers. The proposed EchoStar/DirectTV merger is just such a vehicle to provide expanded service for communities throughout the state.

In addition, small businesses, particularly those whose owners work out of their homes using the Internet, will benefit from the proposed satellite Internet service that will be offered as a result of the merger. Moreover, too many Alaskan communities are not now able to connect to the Internet because they do not have access to cable modem or DSL service. This merger will help close the service gap that currently exists for video, data and Internet services.

From a business perspective, employers will also have increased flexibility in allowing employees to work from home as expanded Internet service connects more Alaskan homes with the rest of the world. As you know, telecommuting of this nature is becoming more and more important as employers try to retain valued employees.

For these reasons, I strongly support the EchoStar/DirectTV merger. I hope you will, too.

Yours truly,

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