

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am in support of the merger between Echostar and DirectTV, as long as it means competitive pricing when compared to local cable systems AND improved access to local stations. Right now, I have to pay extra to receive UPN. Even the local cable system (Time-Warner, San Marcos) does not carry the UPN station from Austin, although they carry all other networks from San Antonio and Austin. I pay a little more per month but at least I get most of the Austin locals as well as a wide variety of programming from other cities using the SuperStation package. This way, I see local coverage of significant events, such as local coverage of the 9/11 events. I would also like to see improved access to NFL coverage around the nation during the football season.

I would also like to see the same Weather Channel coverage as I was accustomed to seeing when I had local cable.

As long as there is healthy competition between local cable and local satellite, I have no concerns about the potential for a satellite service monopoly.

Sincerely,

Stewart Dale Spencer
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San Marcos, TX 78666