

let's eat restaurant group, LLC

February 8, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I urge you to support the EchoStar/DIRECTV merger, which is pending before the Department of Justice and the FCC (Docket # 01-348). By enabling the two companies to eliminate duplicated programs, it will free up spectrum and enable the new company, EchoStar, to compete more effectively against the cable companies, which control some 80% of the American pay-TV market.

In addition to the benefits of competition in TV access, consider high-speed, broadband Internet access. As of now, our choices are severely limited: We can buy high-speed access from our locally franchised cable monopoly, or from whichever telephone giant happens to offer DSL service. And of course, if you live (or do business, or go to school) in a rural area, neither the cable company nor the phone company will be enthusiastic about bringing their lines out to you – and can you blame them?

But with EchoStar's Direct Broadcast Satellite service, not only TV but broadband Internet service falls from the sky – the customer need only install a relatively inexpensive dish. At last – a technological advance that actually makes our lives better! I believe that this merger deserves your support.

Sincerely,

James Taylor
President

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(original on file: call (816) 561-7555)