

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

We operate small market television stations serving hyphenated terrain challenged markets. Our revenue streams have been eroded by several forces over the past few years. Our stations' survival may depend upon our stations carriage by Echostar/Direct TV. If we are unable to continue broadcasting, we will be unable to serve the public.

Echostar's promise to carry stations in all markets should be backed by their agreement to pay stations retransmission fees whether or not our signals are carried by January 2003.

Sincerely,

John B. Tupper, Pres.
3130 E. Broadway
Bismarck, ND 58502