

April 10, 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Echo Star / Direct TV Proposed Merger

I respectfully express my full opposition to the approval of the merger between Echo Star and Direct TV because it will create a 100% monopoly in the DBS Industry.

I was a Dish Network customer for 3 years until last winter when the company rearranged the channels offered in the Spanish package and they tried to force me to upgrade from a \$5.00 to a \$20.00 package. Thanks to having competition, the answer for me was very simple; I switched to Direct TV for a much lower price, better programming package, and same type of service. If the merger between Dish Network and Direct TV is approved, we, the consumers (the ones who need your protection), will be left with no choices resulting in poor service and high prices.

Cable service is not a true choice for me as a consumer since they do not offer multi-lingual programming in the city of Columbus, Ohio, where I reside. The only way I can have Spanish TV is through the Satellite service. Please do not approve the merger between these two companies. If anything needs to be done is to promote more competition in this field.

Respectfully,

Henry A. Vidal
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