

RICH WALTERS  
**Beauty Warehouse**  
*... a head of fashion*

February 15, 2002

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

**Re: EchoStar/DIRECTV merger  
FCC Docket # 01-348**

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV that is currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice.

By eliminating duplicated programs, the newly merged EchoStar would have access to more bandwidth, which would make it a much stronger competitor in the pay TV and high-speed Internet access market. Such increased competition, as you may have noticed the last time you paid your cable TV and Internet service bill, can only benefit consumers.

As of right now, cable companies control approximately 80% of the pay TV market – a monopoly that is protected by their government franchises. By giving EchoStar's satellite communications the opportunity to compete on a more even footing, the FCC and DoJ will be acting in the best tradition of serving consumers by ensuring robust competition for those consumers' business.

It sounds like a no-brainer to me. Please support the EchoStar merger.

Sincerely,

Rich Walters  
President

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