

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I think the proposed merger of the two Satellite networks is a terrible mistake and will serve to harm the competitive marketplace of the satellite media business. I have been involved with both companies and have found distinct differences between them, none of which are service availability based. In all honesty, they both have a lot of 'growing up' to do before they should consider merging. Growing up in a merger (especially this one) will be at the public's expense. The lack of competition for what is really a world wide market will ultimately cause stagnation in the new media product development for the American consumer. I remember ATT, as most anyone my age can, and I also remember long distance bills that were multiple times of what they are today due to the decentralization of the phone service in America. Do we have to repeat the same blunder we allowed to occur in the development of the mega communication giant of ATT, and then later have to break up a Satellite monopoly just as we did ATT? Ask yourselves if this merger makes sense in today's marketplace where technology is burgeoning out of any of our preconceived thoughts of what would be available now when we were back in the 60's? I think not. I stand deadfast against the merger.

Sincerely,

Rebekkah L. Whiting
432 Lyon Brook Road
Norwich, NY 13815