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May 29, 2002

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

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JUN 18 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MB
John Lee
AK 7/4/8
MKP
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Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to convey the concerns of many in my district, the Sixth Congressional District of California, about the impact the proposed merger of EchoStar (the DISH Network) and Hughes Electronics (DirectTV) will have on them as rural consumers.

Currently, EchoStar and Hughes are the only two providers of Direct Broadcast Satellite Services, in the U.S. Market. Without cable options, consumers living in rural America will only have an unchecked monopoly provider to choose from for satellite television if a merger is approved that lacks appropriate consumer protections.

Consumer safeguards should be strictly enforced, such as protecting the quality of the service, regulating fair prices and creating access to vital telecommunications services, when considering this merger. Rural consumers have already been left behind due to lack of communication access. This merger should not create another hurdle for them to dodge in order to have telecommunication choices. I urge the Federal Communications Commission to rigorously scrutinize this proposed merger to prevent higher prices, fewer choices and reduced service options.

Thank you for your consideration of my constituents' concerns.

Sincerely,

Lynn Woolsey

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress

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