

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to vehemently protest the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will destroy the ability to chose for consumers like me, including reduced selection in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies, and potential price fixing. It leaves rural customers like myself, who are unable to turn to cable television for an alternative, no recourse against this virtual monopoly.

By merging, the combined company asserts it will have the ability to provide all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. However, they do not appear to make this a guarantee to their customers - and if they do not follow through with this promise, or if they eliminate previously promised services, we are left with no remedy outside of the court system. And I am sure you are well aware of the efficacy of the class action suit - the lawyers get all the money, the public gets about \$3 added to our account, and the injustices go on.

Incidentally, I am also informed that Echo has repeatedly fought against the 'must carry' rule for local christian programming. As I enjoy christian programming, I would hate to see this left out of my channel line-up. I can't help but wonder whether this merger will mean that even if they do follow through with the promise of local TV, all local channels EXCEPT christian ones will be included.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, and in the interest of free competition, I urge you to strike down this proposed merger as a violation of our fair trade and competition laws.

Sincerely,

Kristin Borchert
2459 125th Drive
Marengo, IA 52240