

House Concurrent Resolution No. 41

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5119L.011

Whereas, EchoStar Communications Corporation proposes to acquire Hughes
2 Electronics; and
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Whereas, through their services known as Dish Network and DirecTV, the two
4 companies together control virtually one hundred percent of the market for direct broadcast
5 satellite services (DBS); and
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Whereas, a significant portion of Missourians have no option for multi-channel
8 programming services other than through satellite services; and
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Whereas, EchoStar's acquisition of DirecTV would result in the consolidation of
11 the DBS industry to one DBS provider; and
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Whereas, there is no reliable mechanism to enforce the commitments by EchoStar
14 and DirecTV to provide a national pricing plan, rural broadband, and local television stations
15 into the local television markets; and
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Whereas, competition is the best way to ensure innovation, quality service, and a
18 fair price to consumers; and
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Whereas, the companies have made application to the Federal Communications
21 Commission asking that they be allowed to transfer licenses to complete the merger; and
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24 **Whereas**, the companies have notified the United States Department of Justice, as
25 required by federal law, of their intent to merge:
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27 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the House of
28 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
29 concurring therein, believe that continued competition in the marketplace by retaining
30 independent DBS companies is the best way to provide continued pricing incentives,
31 technological innovations, and more choices for consumers; and
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33 **Be it further resolved** that the Missouri General Assembly does not believe
34 it to be in the best interest of consumers for this merger to be approved; and
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36 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
37 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the
38 Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice.