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Gary L. Ackerman
Congress of the United States
5th District, New York

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August 4, 2011

Lowell McAdam
President and CEO
Verizon Communications
140 West Street
New York, NY 10007

Ivan Seidenberg
Chairman
Verizon Communications
140 West Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear President McAdam and Chairman Seidenberg:

I am writing about how important the collective-bargaining process is to the 16,000 employees in New York State and the labor unions that represent them who are currently negotiating with Verizon for a new contract.

Verizon is a world-wide leader in the telecommunications field, providing superior service to its customers and contributing significantly to New York State's economy. A demonstration of Verizon's leadership is that it has continued to innovate, such as expanding its FiOS service-area, while also being a successful company during severely troubled economic times. Verizon's sustained success is also because it possesses dedicated, hard-working, and highly-skilled employees.

As negotiations continue, I hope that the company's proposals take into consideration the economic hardships of the current economy on their dedicated workforce as well as reflect the employees' prior and future contributions to Verizon's success. While there are continuing economic challenges that Verizon will face, such as rapid change in the telecom industry, Verizon should also desire to invest in its workforce—not exact concessions from them—so that the company's standards for excellence and competitiveness are maintained.

I believe strongly in good-faith collective-bargaining negotiations. I trust Verizon will negotiate accordingly to reach a fair and equitable contract that is in the best interests of both Verizon and its employees.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress