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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

August 9, 2011

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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PROCUREMENT REFORM

FEDERAL WORKFORCE, US POSTAL SERVICE,
AND LABOR POLICY

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, EFFICIENCY
AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND TRADE

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Mr. Lowell McAdam
President and CEO
Verizon
140 West St
New York, NY 10007

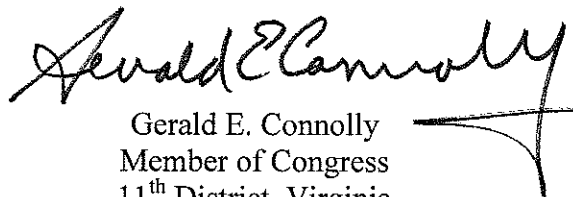
Dear Mr. McAdam,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chief Executive Officer at Verizon and your workforce's ongoing efforts to promote new innovation within the communications industry.

I am writing about the 45,000 Verizon employees, including more than 4,000 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, who are currently without a paycheck during these difficult economic times. I urge you to renew your efforts to achieve an equitable agreement with the members of the Communication Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as quickly as possible. As you know, median wages have stagnated in America, particularly in the last decade. In my Northern Virginia district just outside the nation's capital, unionized Verizon employees earn what would be considered middle-class salaries to support their families in a community with such a high cost of living. For some Verizon employees, the recent relocation of operations from Fairfax to Loudoun, with a corresponding reduction in salary, already has put a strain on their financial resources.

In your communication to the Verizon workforce, you reference the company credo, which says, "We have work because our customers value our high-quality communications services." Though accurate, I would suggest the unwritten parenthetical of that credo is that such services are delivered by an equally high-quality workforce, which ought to receive fair compensation and benefits for helping build Verizon's customer base and fueling recent profits of more than \$6 billion. Based on my experience in the private sector and public office, serving in both local and federal governments, high quality employees and services do not sustain themselves. They require ongoing investments to maintain and continually improve. I hope you will keep that in mind in renewing discussions with your workforce to provide salary and benefits commensurate with their service on behalf of Verizon and its customers.

Sincerely,


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia