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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**ELIOT L. ENGEL**

17th DISTRICT, NEW YORK

August 3, 2011

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

Dear President McAdam:

I have been made aware that Verizon is currently undergoing negotiations with CWA and IBEW for a new contract.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of collective bargaining as a means for workers and management to come to agreements on working conditions that are beneficial to both sides. As a former union member, I learned the personal benefits of joining with my fellow workers to both strengthen our work environment and our employing organization.

From what I have been told, Verizon's proposals would likely have an undesirable impact on the thousands of middle-class employees who live in New York State. These proposals include the elimination of job security; the elimination of any limits on low-wage contracting and overseas outsourcing; freezing current pensions and eliminating future pensions; and replacing the current high-quality health care plan with plans requiring workers to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses and premium sharing.

In these difficult economic times, I am very concerned for my constituents who rely on their jobs with Verizon, and for those who rely on the valuable service you provide. With a high unemployment rate, I would be very leery of any plans that could put more workers out of work.

I understand that many changes have taken place in the telecommunications industry over the last few decades. However, I remain hopeful that all parties involved in these negotiations can come to an agreement that ensures quality jobs remain available to New Yorkers, and that the services provided by Verizon continue to benefit my constituents.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns as the negotiations continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliot L. Engel".

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress