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August 30, 2011

Dear Mr. McAdams:

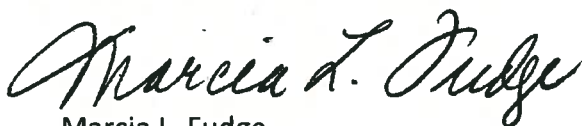
I am deeply concerned about the current strike by your unionized employees represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) due to the apparent lack of progress in meaningful bargaining on the part of Verizon management. I urge you to engage in meaningful and productive bargaining which will result in a mutually acceptable agreement that recognizes the important role played by Verizon employees in the company.

It is my understanding that in the last four years, Verizon has made over \$19 billion in profit and has provided for almost \$260 million in compensation to the top five executives. Yet, you have presented a list of concessionary demands to the unionized workers which would total \$1 billion a year - or \$20,000 in givebacks for every worker. I have been provided a list that outlines those nearly 100 concessionary demands which include the ability for Verizon management to offshore U.S. jobs, the freezing of pensions, eliminating support for employee child care and a dramatic reduction in paid holidays and sick days.

I do understand that the unions are not striking at this time over these concessionary demands, but over the simple refusal of Verizon management to bargain in a fair and reasonable manner. Collective bargaining rights, which are enshrined in the laws of this country, are about the give and take over the bargaining table and can only be successful when both parties engage in the process with a mindset that allows for a potential resolution that can be acceptable to both sides. Compromise, rather than demands, is what the collective bargaining process is all about.

Since CWA and IBEW have made it clear that they will return to work once Verizon management engages in productive and meaningful bargaining over the long list of concessionary demands, I strongly urge you – for the sake of the company, the employees and the customers – to begin bargaining in such a manner. Having a resolution that is mutually acceptable will indeed benefit everyone involved.

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge
U.S. Member of Congress