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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3226

July 29, 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'm writing to you today to urge a fair resolution to the ongoing negotiations between Verizon and the unions representing approximately 18,000 of its employees in New York State. It is my hope that a robust Verizon can continue to work with the CWA and IBEW in Western New York.

As a longtime leader in the communications industry, Verizon has continued to innovate and seek new markets in a way that benefits New York consumers. Consistent with its ongoing efforts, which includes the expansion of FiOS coverage, is the need to employ a highly-skilled and reliable workforce that can serve Verizon's customers at a level commensurate with the outstanding reputation of Verizon's corporate brand.

The updated collective bargaining agreement should not seek to unnecessarily eliminate wages and benefits earned by Verizon workers, but should instead reflect the skill, experience and dedication of employees that are critical to the future of Verizon, as well as New York's broader economy. While I recognize the challenges facing the wireline industry, I believe it must continue to be an important piece of New York's economy. A robust landline network, maintained and serviced by skilled union employees, is even more essential as the demand for broadband services continues to increase in the coming years.

I strongly support good faith negotiations that will result in a contract guaranteeing fair compensation, while allowing Verizon to continue to grow and provide a vital service to all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul  
Member of Congress