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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0705

August 10, 2011

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

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

Dear Chairman Seidenberg and President McAdam:

I write today because I am deeply troubled by the concessions Verizon is requesting from the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as you negotiate a new contract.

Today's economy has been difficult on middle-class working families across the nation. From what I understand from news accounts, your company's proposals would exacerbate this situation by severely reducing the standard of living of thousands of Verizon employees and potentially leading to the elimination of thousands of jobs. These proposals include disregarding job security by removing any limits on low-wage contracting and overseas outsourcing; freezing current pensions and eliminating future pensions; and asking workers to pay thousands of dollars more for their health insurance.

By looking at new technologies, such as FiOS, Verizon has been successful at adapting to the constantly evolving landscape of the telecommunications industry. However, I believe the backbone of Verizon's success are the trained and skilled technicians that deploy and maintain your robust network. These workers should not be penalized when the company has been enormously profitable - making over \$19 billion over the last several years.

Rather than encouraging a "race to the bottom," I strongly urge you to reconsider your bargaining position and work with the unions to achieve a reasonable contract moving forward that protects middle class jobs and ensures continued high quality service to the public. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress