

WILLIAM L. OWENS
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
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AND FORESTRY

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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
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COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS



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

PLEASE RESPOND TO
WASHINGTON OFFICE:

431 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4611

DISTRICT OFFICE:

120 WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 200
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
(315) 782-3150

14 DURKEE STREET, SUITE 106
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
(518) 563-1406

131 MAIN STREET, SUITE 106
ONEIDA, NY 13421
(315) 367-0041

August 1, 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 Mr. Seidenberg and Mr. McAdam:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding current negotiation between Verizon and its employees in Upstate New York. It is my hope that during this negotiation process, all sides come to the negotiation table in good faith in order to achieve a fair bargaining agreement.

A number of CWA and IBEW members from my district have passed along their concerns regarding Verizon's proposals on a number of agreements that must be renegotiated in a new contract, including: contracting to low-wage contractors, overseas outsourcing, pensions for current and future employees, and their current high-quality health care plan. As a strong supporter of employees' rights to bargain collectively, the concerns of Verizon employees in my district are of great importance to me, particularly as they relate to their standards of living and access for consumers to internet and telecommunication services.

As the fragile economy in Upstate New York continues its recovery, it is important that Verizon remains committed to investing in the communities where it operates by supporting the growth of middle-class jobs and maintaining strong wages and benefits for its current employees. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to help resolve this impasse. I am happy to discuss these concerns on the phone with all parties in order to bring about a resolution as quickly as possible. These negotiations are critical to economic development in the region and I encourage Verizon to come to the table in good faith.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter.

Sincerely,

BILL OWENS
Member of Congress