

CHARLES B. RANGEL  
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:  
WAYS AND MEANS  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON TAXATION



GEORGE H. HENRY  
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL  
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

August 8, 2011

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

Dear Ivan,

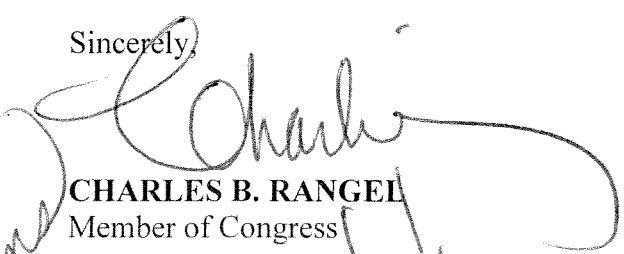
As you know, I have a great personal and political relationship with the labor and trade unions, which includes the Communication Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). I am concerned that the collective bargaining between Verizon, CWA and IBEW has reached a standstill in your current negotiations for a new contract.

CWA and IBEW have expressed to me that Verizon's collective bargaining proposals would severely reduce the standard of living of thousands of middle-class company employees who live in New York State and potentially lead to the elimination of thousands of these jobs. These proposals include sweeping demands for 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.

While I am well aware of the sweeping changes that have taken place in the telecommunications industry, the need to preserve a robust landline network maintained and serviced by skilled technicians remains the same. I do hope that you will direct your personal attention to these serious objections raised by the unions and reach a consensus that will benefit all New Yorkers.

Let me thank you, my dear friend for your support and friendship as we keep America working and our nation strong.

Sincerely,

  
**CHARLES B. RANGEL**  
Member of Congress

CBR:ge

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