

COMMITTEE ON RULES

RANKING MEMBER

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2469 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-3221
(202) 225-3615



DISTRICT OFFICES:

3120 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 STATE STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14614
(585) 232-4850

465 MAIN STREET, SUITE 105
BUFFALO, NY 14203
(716) 853-5813

640 PARK PLACE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
(716) 282-1274

WEBSITE: <http://www.louise.house.gov>

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

August 3, 2011

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

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

Dear Mr. Seidenberg and Mr. McAdam,

I am troubled by Verizon's current bargaining demands put forth during negotiations with the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) that could reduce the standard of living for thousands of Verizon employees who live in my district and throughout New York State.

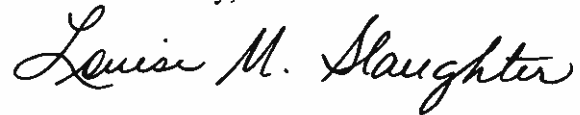
In the absence of any meaningful job-creation legislation put forth by Congress, I have spoken out in favor of returning our focus to the economy, particularly to job creation and retention. Verizon's proposals include demands that will eliminate job security and do away with limits on low-wage contracting and outsourcing, while freezing hard-earned pensions and forcing workers to pay exorbitant costs for health care. The position of Verizon during these negotiations directly conflicts with my efforts in Congress for over two decades.

I am aware that in the ever-changing telecommunications industry the need to invest in a robust network is of the utmost importance. Likewise, there is a need to invest in the skilled technicians and support positions that make service delivery possible. Verizon is an enormously profitable company, having made \$19 billion in profits over the last four years, while paying its top five executives over \$258 million during the same time frame. I ask you to consider the fair treatment of your employees as an investment in your most valuable asset.

While I work to protect middle-class jobs and expand opportunities for our families, I ask that Verizon do the same. I hope you will work cooperatively with CWA and IBEW to reach common ground and provide high quality service to the public, while building your technology infrastructure in cities like Rochester and Buffalo.

Providing job security, decent wages and quality health care are values that I hope you share with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise M. Slaughter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Cc: Mr. James M. Wagner, President, CWA Local 1122