

PAUL TONKO
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3221

422 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5076

DISTRICT OFFICES:
61 COLUMBIA STREET
4TH FLOOR
ALBANY, NY 12210
(518) 465-0700

61 CHURCH STREET
ROOM 309
AMSTERDAM, NY 12010
(518) 843-3400

105 JAY STREET
ROOM 15
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305
(518) 374-4547

August 3, 2011

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

Dear President McAdam:

I am writing to you today on behalf my constituents. Many of them are Verizon customers, but a select few are also Verizon employees. While I am certainly concerned about any changes to service for my constituents, I am deeply concerned about some of the proposals in the ongoing contract negotiations and how they may impact nearly 20,000 New Yorkers and their families.

While Verizon has certainly faced a new series of challenges in the increasingly competitive and rapidly developing telecommunications industry, placing the burden on middle class workers and their families to help close the gap between Verizon and its competitors is unfair and bad business.

I respect the fact that Verizon is a successful, private sector corporation that has spent millions of dollars investing in communities throughout New York State and beyond. But I also believe that Verizon has an obligation to negotiate in good faith with its employees, understanding that middle class families face a crushing burden of rising property taxes, increased health care costs and a less than certain economic outlook.

Verizon set the example for its competitors in the telecommunications industry by continuing to provide high quality health care, competitive pension and retirement plans and job security provisions for its employees. While our economy has struggled, Verizon has realized profits of \$19 billion in the last four years and enjoyed more than \$1 billion in federal tax incentives over the past two years.

I am a strong advocate for collective bargaining, both as a way to reduce worker-management conflict, and as a way of achieving fair wages and working conditions for workers. Collective bargaining requires compromise on both sides, not strict adherence to fixed, unilateral positions. Verizon should be working cooperatively with its unions to protect middle class jobs and provide high quality service to the public. I appreciate your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Tonko".

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress