

EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
10TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

**OVERSIGHT AND
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ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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TRADE

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July 29, 2011

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

Lowell McAdam
CEO
Verizon Communications
140 West Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Seidenberg and Mr. McAdam:

I am writing to discuss Verizon's current negotiations with CWA and IBEW for a new contract.

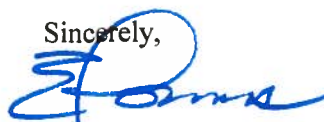
From what I have been told, the company's proposals could reduce the standard of living of thousands of middle-class Verizon employees who live in New York State and potentially lead to the elimination of thousands of these jobs. These proposals include weakened job security; the elimination of limits 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. These are benefits that workers have counted on for years and they should be protected.

While I am well aware of the 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. Furthermore, I congratulate Verizon for being an enormously profitable company, making \$19 billion in profits in the last four years despite the worst economic situation in 75 years, and for your generous contributions to community service organizations all over New York State.

In these difficult times, I count on profitable corporations like Verizon to invest in New York, to protect and expand middle-class jobs, and to act as a responsible corporate citizen. Verizon should be cooperating with its unions to provide high quality service to the public and to build out new technologies like FiOS as broadly as possible, including rural and low income areas of the state.

I strongly urge you to work with the unions to achieve a reasonable agreement that protects middle class jobs and ensures continued high quality service to the public. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edolphus "Ed" Towns
Member of Congress