



Communications Workers of America District 2 | Ron Collins, Vice President | 900 Lee Street, East, Suite 1212, Charleston WV 25301 | 304-342-2023

## Vermont Firefighter Warns State About Dangers of Verizon-Frontier Sale. Opposition to Deal is Growing



### ***Citing problems that befell Verizon***

customers in northern New England, several state organizations, including first responders to emergencies, joined CWA at a news conference at the West Virginia Capitol on December 7 to oppose the proposed sale of Verizon landlines to Frontier.

Participating organizations represented a broad spectrum of groups concerned that the proposed deal could adversely affect many of the state's residents.

In a similarly structured deal, Verizon sold its operations in northern New England to a much smaller company, FairPoint Communications, which has gone bankrupt.

Matt Vinci, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont and a 16 year veteran Fire Captain spoke about his experiences following FairPoint's acquisition of Verizon's landlines. "When seconds count, citizens depend on firefighters and paramedics," Vinci said. "We depend upon a high quality information superhighway to obtain it.

"In Vermont we once had 'Ma Bell' provide our telephone service. Then we had 'Baby Bell' service.

"Sadly, with FairPoint's acquisition of Verizon's northern New England properties, we now only have "Tinker Bell" service," Vinci added.

Vinci said he's concerned West Virginia is now facing the same situation as Vermont. He came to warn other first-responders and those whose lives depend on them. "The Verizon Frontier sale poses similar risks that your firefighters and other first responders do not want to take," Vinci said.

Other groups attending the news conference were the Professional Fire Fighters of West Virginia, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, West Virginia Citizens Action Group, the National Association of Social Workers-West Virginia chapter, West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans and the West Virginia AFL-CIO.

While not able to send a representative to the press conference, the West Virginia AARP wrote a very supportive letter to the PSC.

"We're happy to see the public awakening to the real dangers this proposed deal could have to the people of West Virginia," said Ron Collins, CWA Vice- President, District Two. "It's because of the public's concerns that these organizations are standing here with us today.

"As more people learn about this deal and how it can adversely affect their lives, not just their phone service, we expect more groups to join in telling the PSC this deal is not in the public's best interest and should be rejected," Collins added.

For a link to pictures from the press conference, visit the Picasa photo-sharing site at:  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/randwilson.aflcio/PressConferenceWithFirefightersAndOtherAllies>

## CWA Members Return to Capitol

A record number of union leaders and members from CWA locals once again traveled to the West Virginia Capitol for the union's third Lobby Day. CWA International Rep. Elaine Harris welcomed everyone and gave an overview of plans for the day.

CWA District Two Vice President Ron Collins reported to members about the previous day's press event and outlined the next steps for the campaign. Ron reported on recruitment of campaign activists both from within the union and outside supporters. He encouraged everyone to continue reaching out to potential allies in their communities to broaden the coalition to stop the sale.

Ron closed by announcing that CWA would sponsor a rally near the Capitol on January 10 (see info below).

Members were welcomed by AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Larry Matheny, who has enthusiastically attended all three CWA lobby days.

At a wrap up meeting at the end of the day, members reported on their meetings with legislators. CWA members met with nine Senators and twenty-six Delegates. Members also left information and messages with two other Senators and six other Delegates.

Since the last lobby day, 27 new Senators and Delegates have written letters to the PSC opposing the sale. They are:

Sen. William R. Laird IV	Del. Larry Barker	Del. Tom Azinger
Del. Greg Butcher	Del. Charlene Marshall	Del. Sam Argento
Del. Linda Longstreth	Del. Tom Louisos	Del. Alex Shook
Del. Brady R. Paxton	Del. Dale Martin	Del. Roy Givens
Del. Sharon Spencer	Del. Dave Perry	Del. Michael Manypenny
Del. Rick Moye	Del. Margaret Staggers	Del. Scott Varner
Del. Walter E. Duke	Del. John Frazier	Del. Bill Hamilton
Del. Tim Manchin	Del. Ralph Rodighiero	Del. Steven Kominar
Del. Virginia Mahan	Del. Gerald Crosier	Del. Ray Canterbury
Del. Daniel Poling		

For a link to pictures from Lobby Day, visit the Picasa photo-sharing site at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/randwilson.aflcio/Dec8LobbyDay>

**Attention all CWA members and families: Save the Date!**

### Rally to Stop the Verizon - Frontier Sale: "Good for Wall Street, Bad For West Virginia"

**January 10, 2010 • 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

The Culture Center (Capitol Complex)  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston WV 25305-0300

Arrangements for bus transportation are being made.  
More info at: [www.bad4wv.com](http://www.bad4wv.com)

