

1 Protest Original (s)

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WVA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

RESOLUTION

Proposed Sale of Verizon's landlines to Frontier Communications

WHEREAS: Verizon wants to sale its land line operations in West Virginia, along with 13 other states, to Frontier Communications; and

WHEREAS: Out of the 14 states, West Virginia has the largest number of consumers who will be impacted by the proposed sale; and

WHEREAS: Verizon has completed similar sales of its wire line operations in New England and Hawaii to the detriment of the consumers involved as the purchasing companies are either bankrupt or face bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS: Most regulatory experts have said Frontier does not have the financial or operational capacity to improve service quality or expand access to high speed Internet; and

WHEREAS: Frontier plans to limit its broadband investment to DSL technology instead of fiber optic cable to the home, which is much faster and more dependable; and

WHEREAS: According to the FCC, nearly 60 percent of homes in West Virginia lack broadband access; and

WHEREAS: West Virginia ranks 33rd in the nation in real-time Internet connection speeds; and

WHEREAS: Verizon chose Frontier as a buyer because it can advantage of a tax loophole to avoid paying taxes on its \$3.3 billion profit and, if approved, tax payers will in effect subsidize Verizon abandoning its operations; and

WHEREAS: The West Virginia Consumer Advocate and Public Service Commission staff have urged rejection of the deal.

Therefore, be it resolved: The Boone County Commission calls on the West Virginia Public Service Commission to deny Verizon's petition to sell its properties.

Presented by the
BOONE COUNTY COMMISSION
This 5th day of January, 2010

Atholl Halstead
Atholl Halstead
President

Mickey Brown
Mickey Brown
Commissioner

Eddie Hendricks
Eddie Hendricks
Commissioner

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