



**HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Committees:
Banking and Insurance
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October 21, 2009

Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Re: Case Number: 09-0871-T-PC, Transfer of Verizon's local exchange and long distance business in West Virginia to Frontier Communications

Dear Secretary Squire:

I write to you regarding Verizon's proposed transfer of its local exchange and long distance business in West Virginia to Frontier Communications threatens West Virginia's economic future by placing our phone and internet service in the hands of a financially shaky company that won't be able to keep up with our state's growing needs.

Our state must not be left behind as large, regulated telecommunications companies attempt to divest themselves of their land line networks - networks that our citizens have paid for over many decades, and upon which they rely for basic living and economic activities. Verizon sold land lines in northern New England in a similar deal to FairPoint Communications. Despite many promises for an improved network, FairPoint is now teetering on the brink of bankruptcy and service quality there has deteriorated.

As an elected official, I am especially concerned that whatever company owns and operates the telecommunications asset of our state has sufficient resources, both human and financial, to invest in modernizing the network at a pace that will meet the rapidly evolving needs of residents, businesses and institutions throughout West Virginia.

There are serious concerns regarding the risk associated with this transaction, in the end, this transaction must be for the *public good*, and all concerns raised must be addressed in a way that protects the interest of our state and its citizens.

I strongly believe that it is not worth the risk to approve this transaction, and I vehemently urge the Commission *not* to approve the sale.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hatfield, Delegate
30th District