



**HOUSE OF DELEGATES
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

BUILDING 1, ROOM 203
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0470
PHONE (304) 340-3139

2 Protest Original (s)

RECEIVED
09 DEC - 8 PM 12: 38
W VA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MICHAEL N. MANYPENNY, II
ROUTE 3, BOX 202
GRAFTON, WV 26354
PHONE: (304) 677-0379
EMAIL: mmany@mail.wvnet.edu

December 7, 2009

Committees:
Agriculture
Energy/Industry & Labor/
Economic Development/
Small Business
Government Organization
Health & Human Resources
Natural Resources
Senior Citizen Issues

Ms. Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, WV 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 Executive Secretary Squire,

After reviewing all of the information from both sides of the proposed Verizon/Frontier sale of Verizon's landlines, I have come to the conclusion that I cannot support such a sale that could very likely hurt so many people in West Virginia. Similar sales with less problems were performed in New England states where the end product created turmoil and the near collapse of their phone system, not to mention the people who lost their lifelong pensions when the companies filed bankruptcy.

The New England 911 system was down for days at a time and still has problems months after the transaction. We couldn't live with such a disruption relying on 911 for our seniors and other family members. I know this from experience working with State Delegates from New Hampshire who experienced this first hand and their reply was that if they could do the sale over they would have denied it in their state and New England.

I have done the research and there is no evidence that Frontier can or will follow through with any resemblance of a high speed internet system throughout West Virginia. In fact if they cut the \$500 million dollars from their operating budget that they indicated they would, then I can't imagine how they will be able to offer any resemblance of service to its customers. Frontier, already roughly \$4 billion or more in debt, will accrue another \$3.3 billion with this acquisition. The Verizon copper wire lines are already degrading and with this debt load and reduction in operation costs, it leads me to believe that Frontier will go the way of the dinosaur as did the previous bought up Verizon companies in New England which had far less debt and less risk involved.

I truly believe we need high speed internet access to every citizen in WV for the advancement of our children's' educations, as well as to attract new businesses into our state. I promise to fight for West Virginia, Taylor County and our surrounding counties. I intend to push forward to make access to high-speed internet for all West Virginians a reality. Frontier's high speed access is still a wired system which is still in the dark ages when we could be using fiber optic cable for centralized distribution to broadcast Wi-Fi high speed into outlying areas and neighborhoods. But their intent, from what I have researched, is to run more copper and use old technology and slower DSL .

Frontier and Verizon both have roughly the same amount of high speed access subscribers across the state making their broadband access identical.

Frontier can try or say anything to get this sale to go through but at the end of the day they can't be held accountable to follow through with these promises unless they put it in writing and then there are the people that may lose their hard earned pensions if the company fails. If Frontier were to go bankrupt as the companies did in New England with less risk, then all employees could lose almost their entire retirement.

If the company would put safeguards in place to protect its employees and to commit to a reasonable number or percentage of households per year that will have high-speed internet access over a timeline, then I might be on board. But their high speed access, which is a slow DSL dialup, is no better than what I have now with regular dialup. I can't imagine anyone wants to pay more for less. That may be the case if this sale goes through. I look forward to your input. Please contact me with your comments.
I urge you to deny this sale unless exceptional safe guards are put in place for the public and the employees of these companies.

Sincerely,



Michael N. Manypenny, II
Delegate, 42nd District

RECEIVED
09 DEC - 8 PM 12: 38
W VA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
SECRETARY'S OFFICE