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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

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RANDY SWARTZMILLER, Chair
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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October 26, 2009

Committees:
Government Organization
Veterans Affairs & Homeland
Security
Agriculture
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Chairman Michael Albert
Public Service Commission
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

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Dear Chairman Albert, Commissioner McKinney and Commissioner Staats,

As an elected representative of my community, I find myself unable to shake my apprehension regarding the sale of Verizon to Frontier Communications. As I have previously stated, I am concerned that a small company like Frontier Communications lacks the resources to maintain the current level of service provided by Verizon while also increasing service areas and deploying the most current technologies available.

Furthermore, I question the job and benefit security of communications employees should Verizon be sold to Frontier Communications. If Frontier Communications does indeed plan to purchase Verizon, and to pay off that large debt by cutting operating expenses, where does the well-being of the employees fit into that equation?

In order to ease some of my concerns, I ask that you please provide me with the documentation that ensures that the communications employees' benefits they have earned to date will not be jeopardized in the event there would be a bankruptcy filing by Frontier Communications. In addition, please provide proof of any safety net mechanism that Verizon has proposed in order to protect the benefits of the workers who transition employment from Verizon to Frontier Communications. I would also like to know how many years this safety net will be enforced.

I respectfully request that you seriously weigh the costs and benefits of the citizens and the employees before making a decision on this transaction. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Delegate Randy Swartzmiller
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security

cc: Governor Manchin
Speaker Thompson
Majority Leader Boggs
Senator Bowman
Sam Cipoletti
Elaine Harris
Kenny Perdue