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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2 Protest Original (s)

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November 30, 2009

09-0871-T-PC

Committees:
Judiciary
Banking & Insurance
Industry & Labor/Economic
Development & Small Business

Ms. Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

Dear Ms. Squire,

As an elected representative of my community, I find myself unable to shake my apprehension regarding the sale of Verizon to Frontier Communications. As you know, Verizon has been successful in increasing the availability of technology to our citizens; and communications customers pay lofty rates in West Virginia in anticipation of receiving this high-quality service. It is my hope that any new communications company operating in our state is prepared to not only maintain current services, but also continue to increase service areas and deploy the most current technologies available. I sincerely doubt that Frontier is up to the challenge.

I recently read that Public Service Commission staff shares my concern that the Verizon/Frontier deal may not be in the best interest of West Virginia consumers. I fear that this transaction would place an insurmountable financial burden on Frontier and our hard working citizens will eventually end up paying the price.

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

I respectfully request that you take these matters into consideration before making a decision on this transaction. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Delegate Virginia Mahan
27th District

cc: Governor Manchin
Elaine Harris, WVCWA

RS