



**STEELWORKERS ORGANIZATION
OF ACTIVE RETIREES**

1 Protest Original (s)

SOAR Chapter 23-4
James E Smith President
712-716 Buffington St.
Huntington, WV 25702

November 12, 2009

West Virginia Public Service Commission
Sandra Squire
P O Box 812
Charleston, WV 25323

RE: Case # 09-0871-T-PC

Dear Ms. Squire,

I am writing you to voice our membership's opposition to the pending sell of Verizon to Frontier Communications. Our chapter of SOAR (Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees) represents several hundred retired Steelworkers and their spouses here in West Virginia as well as Ohio and Kentucky. We fear that Frontier Communications is too small of a company to take over this utility service and will result in decreased service and ultimately lead to a merge with another company or bankruptcy. While it may be good for shareholders of Frontier Communications it would be bad for the public and our community.

As most of our membership worked for Huntington Alloys we are painfully aware of what can happen when the sell of this kind takes place. We were purchased by Special Metals, which was unable to provide the same quality and service to their customers and as a result took bankruptcy. This devastated our retiree's pensions and health insurance. We fear the same for our brothers and sisters with the Communication Workers of America that represent the hundreds of Verizon employees and their retirees.

In closing I would again ask the Commission not to allow this deal to go through and on behalf of our membership oppose this sell, case # 09-0871-T-PC.

Respectfully,

James E Smith
President SOAR Chapter 23-4

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