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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

CHILDREN & FAMILIES, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ETHICS, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION

EDUCATION

FINANCE

HEALTH

RULES

July 21, 2011

Ivan Seidenberg
Chairman and CEO
Verizon Communications
140 West Street
New York, NY 10007

Lowell McAdams
President and COO
Verizon Communications
140 West Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Seidenberg and President McAdams:

I am writing because I am deeply troubled by Verizon's bargaining demands in your current negotiations with CWA and IBEW for a new contract.

It has been explained to me that the company's proposal would severely reduce the standard of living of thousands of middle-class Verizon employees who live in New York State and potentially lead to the eliminations of thousands of these jobs. These proposals include sweeping demands for the elimination of job security; the elimination of any limits on low-wage contracting and overseas outsourcing; freezing current pensions and eliminating future pensions; and replacing the current high-quality health care plan with plans requiring workers to pay thousands of dollars in out of pocket expenses and premium sharing.

While I am well aware of the changes that have taken place in the telecommunications industry, the need to preserve a functioning landline network maintained and serviced by skilled, well-trained technicians remains a constant. Furthermore, Verizon is an enormously profitable company, having made \$19 billion in profits in the last four years and paid its top five executives over \$258 million in the same time frame, despite the worst economic situation in 75 years. And on top of that, your corporation enjoyed \$1.3 billion in federal tax benefits over the last two years.

Chairman and CEO Ivan Seidenberg
President and COO Lowell McAdams
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In these difficult economic times, I count on profitable corporations like Verizon to invest in New York State, to protect middle class jobs, and to act as a responsible corporate citizen. Verizon should be working cooperatively with its unions to provide high quality service to the public and to build out new technologies and expand its availability to all parts of New York State.

Rather than encouraging a "race to the bottom," I strongly urge you to reconsider your bargaining position and work with unions to achieve a reasonable bargaining agreement that protects middle class jobs and ensures continued high quality service to the public. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Velmanette Montgomery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "V".

Senator Velmanette Montgomery
18th Senate District