

Sample Letter from West Virginia Workers and CWA Members Who Do NOT Work for Verizon or Frontier

Instructions: CWA members working for Verizon or Frontier should NOT send this letter because it could arguably be used against them by their employers. (A separate sample letter is available to use instead.) This letter is a sample that can be used by any other worker or CWA member. Such individuals should write a letter using their own words and drawing on their own experiences. Follow the outline below to make sure the key points get made.

For Senator: _____ **or** **For Member of House of Representatives:**
The Honorable _____ The Honorable _____
United States Senate U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sen. (or Rep.) XXXX:

(Introduction. Try to use your own words. This is just a sample.)

I live in [name of your town] and am a member of the Communications Workers of America [if you are a member of another union you can mention it if you want]. [You can say where you work if you want]. I am very concerned about the proposed Verizon Frontier deal and am asking for your help to protect West Virginia.

(Middle Paragraphs – Briefly describe why this deal is bad for you and West Virginia – please cover the main points in your own words: loss of jobs and/or quality services, reduced investment in high speed fiber, Verizon gets \$3.3 billion tax free, the experience of the other states with similar Verizon deals)

I am concerned for the jobs of the workers at Verizon and/or Frontier. Some of them may be afraid to write to you out of concern that the company would retaliate against them for expressing their opinions. No matter what Frontier may say, companies that are facing high debt and bad economic times often cut expenses by reducing good quality jobs and services.

I am also worried about how this proposed business deal might affect my community and the residents of our great state. West Virginia deserves a world class communications network and this proposed deal takes us backward. Verizon had committed to increase fiber investment throughout West Virginia. How will Frontier expand FiOS when the company will have to pay back the billions of dollars that Verizon borrowed and then wants to keep for itself, by taking advantage of a tax loophole?

Verizon only picked Frontier to spin off our communications system so Verizon could use a tax loophole known as the “Reverse Morris Trust” and keep \$3.3 billion tax free. Taxpayers – including us – are subsidizing Verizon to abandon West Virginia!

Things can get much worse in West Virginia if the proposed Verizon-Frontier deal is approved. Just ask the residents and regulators in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont

and Hawaii what happens when Verizon dumps its access lines and high debt onto a company that must also recreate Verizon's computer and back office systems.

(Concluding Paragraphs – the Asks; it is OK to use these words.)

We in CWA are asking you to do two things. First, please introduce legislation that will close the Reverse Morris Trust tax loophole. We should be encouraging investment in infrastructure, not speculative paper transactions that put workers and consumers at risk.

Second, we hope you will take the lead in this issue and get the West Virginia delegation in the Senate and the House to oppose this risky deal. Verizon and Frontier are looking out for themselves, we need you to look out for us.

(Closing. Try to use your own words. This is just a sample.)

Please stand up for us and act strongly to protect West Virginia.

(Signature and address. – Sign your name clearly. Also print your name underneath clearly. Make sure to include your full address and your email address so that they can respond to you.)

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Clearly

Your Name

Your street address, city, state and zip code

Your email address