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Communications Workers of America District 2 | Ron Collins, Vice President | 900 Lee Street, East, Suite 1212, Charleston WV 25301 | 304-342-2023

Majority of West Virginia Voters Oppose the Verizon/Frontier Deal!

A poll conducted during the last week of January 2010 found that 46 percent of West Virginia voters oppose the proposed Verizon/Frontier deal. This means for every voter who supports the deal, 2 more oppose it. Further finding revealed that only 26 percent of state voters support the deal while another 28 percent did not know enough about the deal to give an opinion on the matter.

The poll was conducted by Grove Insight, a nationally renowned polling firm. The poll surveyed 700 West Virginia voters between January 26 through 28, 2010.

The poll results indicated that those against the deal feel far more strongly about the proposed deal than those who support it. Nearly twice as many West Virginia voters feel “strongly” that the sale should be denied by the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) as those who approve of the deal “strongly.” The hard figures show 35 percent strongly oppose the deal, while only 18 percent strongly approve. Overall the results demonstrate that West Virginia voters think the Public Service Commission should reject the Verizon/Frontier deal by a nearly 2 to 1 margin.

The poll also found that public opinion in West Virginia is very favorable towards Verizon, whereas public opinion towards Frontier is far less favorable.

Verizon Communications is favorably viewed by a majority (52%) of West Virginia voters, while less than one in five (18%) have unfavorable impressions of the company.

West Virginia Voters Agree:
Deal is Bad for WV



On the other hand, Frontier Communications is small company that few West Virginians have any experience with. A majority (54%) have no opinion or have never heard of the company. Only one in five (21%) have favorable impressions of it, while a little over one in ten (13%) dislike Frontier. Given these perceptions it comes as no surprise that West Virginians have serious trepidation about the proposed Verizon-Frontier deal.

When asked if the sale would result in “better service than we get right now,” 43 percent say this phrase is not descriptive of the deal. Only 29 percent believe they would get better service.

It appears that our campaign to educate the public, advertising and recent news stories detailing the troubled history of Verizon’s past deals have had an major impact on public perception. The poll shows when people are given more information about the deal, they quickly start to view it unfavorably. So we need to keep our voices raised and continue educating the public about this bad deal and its possible consequences for West Virginia.

Mountains of Opposition Mail

In January over 2,000 individual letters were sent to Governor Manchin opposing the Verizon/Frontier deal. The Governor wasn't the only one with a full mailbox either. State legislators have received approximately 3,200 similar letters in recent weeks. These letters ensure that leaders in West Virginia are getting our message and understand exactly why this deal is bad for West Virginia and its citizens.

The proposed sale wasn't just creating mountains of mail but had the phones ringing off the hook too! CWA set up a toll-free number (1-877-556-6929) that allowed anyone to call in and record a message expressing their opinion on the Verizon-Frontier deal or request information. The phone line has received hundreds of messages in less than two weeks.

We have also had a success with our pledge and community cards. We had over 2,000 individuals submit pledge and community cards to CWA. These cards have been vital in helping us form a network of our supporters and allow us to provide them with materials to aid in our struggle against this deal.

Our members and the public have demonstrated their opposition to the Verizon/Frontier deal and their desire to know more about it by filing out pledge and information cards. If you did not fill out a pledge card or join our network, please call the CWA offices to let them know you are interested and ready to help keep communication safe in the Mountain State.

CWA Lobby Day – February 25 – Be There!

CWA is scheduled to have a lobby day at the State Capitol on Thursday, February 25, 2010. With the PSC currently deciding the fate of the Verizon-Frontier deal it is absolutely vital for our members to turn out and let our leaders know the public oppose this deal.

CWA members need to request union time for the day immediately. We want to have at least 100 members in attendance as a show of strength and solidarity.

The day's activities will begin with a meeting in the State Treasurer's Lower Conference Room (EB-54), located in the Capitol basement, at 9:30 am. Here we will brief you on the days activities and provided with materials to assist you in making visits to your elected officials. We strongly encourage members to contact the Senators and Delegates from your area to schedule an appointment to meet with them

on February 25, 2010. This will ensure you do get a chance to speak with your legislators and have your voice heard.

We will provide light refreshments of coffee and doughnuts in the morning. We will also be providing goodie bags with an array of items, including materials to assist you in navigating the capitol grounds and locating your legislators. Team leaders will also be there to help guide you through the process.

Please let your local know if you plan on coming so we will be able to estimate the number of those attending and make adequate preparations. Please feel free to call the CWA offices (304-342-2023) if you have any questions.

We urge everyone to try and attend this very urgent Lobby Day, which will probably be the last one we have before the PSC renders its decision. Our voices and numbers can make a difference!

PSC Update

On January 15th the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) concluded its formal hearings on the Verizon – Frontier deal. The formal hearings lasted for four days and contained powerful testimony from opponents of the deal.

Now the PSC begins its deliberation process, but information continues to be provided as their review of the matter proceeds. There are two upcoming rounds of legal briefs to be filed with the PSC in the upcoming weeks.

Attorney Vince Trivelli will be filing a brief on behalf of CWA and briefs will be filed by other involved parties, including Frontier. Then on March 5, 2010 rebuttal briefs will be filed, these will enable the parties to supply answers to any question

raised by the previous brief or inquiries coming from the commissioners.

There is no deadline as to when a decision must be reached in this matter. We hope the PSC gives the matter very lengthy and due consideration because we believe the more they learn about the deal the more they will see it is bad for West Virginia. However, it is almost certain a decision will be reached within the next few months.

Be sure to check our bad4wv.com website for all the latest breaking news regarding the deal and the PSC's actions. You can also visit the WV PSC official website at www.psc.state.wv.us to view all the documents filed in the Verizon-Frontier matter, including the upcoming briefs.

When the stakes are high, a side must be chosen.



Whose side are you on?

Verizon (#17 on Fortune 500) wants to sell its phone operations in West Virginia to Frontier Communications (#834 on Fortune 1000).

Verizon will get \$3 billion tax-free and Frontier will end up \$8 billion in debt.

The West Virginia Public Service Commission has held hearings to determine if the proposed deal is in the public's interest. The PSC Consumer Advocate and staff of expert analysts say the deal is no good. Thousands of West Virginians agree and so do many of our government officials.

The following groups and government leaders oppose or have concerns about the Verizon/Frontier deal and its consequences for West Virginians:

West Virginia House of Delegates

Sam Argento	John Ellem	Orphy Klempa	Rick Moyer	Sharon Spencer
Tom Azinger	Timothy Ennis	Steven Kominar	Brady R. Paxton	Margaret Staggers
Larry Barker	Michael Ferro	Tiffany E. Lawrence	Don Perdue	Dale Stephens
Brent Boggs	Barbara Fleischauer	Linda Longstreth	Dave Perry	Josh Stowers
Bonnie Brown	John Frazier	Tom Louisos	Dave Pethtel	Sally Susman
Greg Butcher	Roy Givens	Virginia Mahan	Daniel Poling	Randy Swartzmiller
Samuel Cann	Nancy Guthrie	Tim Manchin	Mary Poling	Joe Talbott
Ray Canterbury	Daniel J. Hall	Michael Manypenny	Meshea Poore	Scott Varner
Mike Caputo	Bill Hamilton	Charlene Marshall	Ralph Rodighiero	David Walker
Kevin Craig	Barbara Hatfield	Dale Martin	Stan Shaver	Danny Wells
Gerald Crosier	Mark Hunt	Pat McGeehan	Alex Shook	Larry Williams
Walter E. Duke	Tal Hutchins	Cliff Moore	Doug Skaff Jr.	William R. Wooton
Jeff Eldridge	Richard J. Jaquinta	Jim Morgan	Peggy Donaldson Smith	

West Virginia State Senate

Edwin J. Bowman	Joe Minard
H. Truman Chafin	Michael Oliverio II
Larry Edgell	Corey Palumbo
Douglas Facemire	Ron Stollings
Daniel Foster	John Unger
William R. Laird IV	Randy White
Brooks McCabe	Jack Yost

County Commissions

Boone County Commission	Monroe County Commission
Braxton County Commission	Nicholas County Commission
Cabell County Commission	Putnam County Commission
Fayette County Commission	Randolph County Commission
Hancock County Commission	Roane County Commission
Jackson County Commission	Summers County Commission
Lincoln County Commission	Wirt County Commission
Marion County Commission	Wood County Commission
Mason County Commission	

Others

AARP	Norris Light, Chairman, Kanawha County Democratic Executive Committee	West Virginia AFL-CIO	West Virginia Education Association
Tashua Allman, Mayor, City of Glenville	Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees	West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans	West Virginia Nurses Association
Larry Conley, Mayor, Town of Belle	Richard Stonestreet, Kanawha County Democratic Executive Committee	West Virginia Association for Justice	West Virginia Professional Firefighters Association
Martin Howe, City Manager, City of Clarksburg	Town of Given, WV	West Virginia Attorney General Darrel McGraw	West Virginia Troopers Association
Naomi F. Jaynes, Kanawha County Democratic Executive Committee	U.S. Department of Defense	West Virginia Citizens Action Group	

PSC, reject this deal.
If you don't take a stand, West Virginia stands to lose.



**Communications
Workers of America**

For more info, visit www.bad4wv.com or call 1-877-55-No-Way (1-877-556-6929)