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May 15, 2009

The Honorable Michael J. Copps
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps:

On May 12, 2009, Verizon withdrew from Commission consideration the petitions for forbearance that it had filed related to competition in Rhode Island and Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Commission was required to issue a decision on the petition related to the Rhode Island market by May 15, 2009. The Virginia Beach petition was due to be acted upon by June 29, 2009. This is not the first time a large company has withdrawn a forbearance petition late in the process. In 2007, Qwest Communications withdrew a petition on the same day it was due to be acted upon.

We are writing to request additional information concerning the impact of Verizon's action on the Commission. Specifically, we would like a detailed description of Commission resources that were expended, and at what level, in considering these two petitions prior to Verizon's withdrawal. We also request an estimate of the financial impact on the Commission, as well as an estimate of the total hours spent by Commission staff considering the record and drafting any decisions.

We welcome any additional information you think would be useful for our consideration of this matter. We would also like any suggestions you may have for improving the forbearance process so that Commission resources are used in the most efficient manner and all parties with an interest in such proceedings are treated fairly.

The Honorable Michael J. Copps
May 15, 2009
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We ask that you provide a response by June 5, 2009. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Roger Sherman or Tim Powderly with the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman



Rick Boucher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications,
Technology, and the Internet



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Edward J. Markey
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