

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
15TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2227 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215
(202) 225-4361
FAX: (202) 225-6001

BRONX OFFICE:
1231 LAFAYETTE AVE, 4TH FLOOR
BRONX, NY 10474
(718) 620-0084
FAX: (718) 620-0658

<http://serrano.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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GENERAL GOVERNMENT
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MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL
HISPANIC CAUCUS

SENIOR WHIP

April 21, 2016

Lowell McAdam
Chief Executive Officer
Verizon Communications
One Verizon Way
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Dear Mr. McAdam:

I am writing regarding the recent breakdown of contract negotiations that has resulted in the strike of nearly 40,000 of Verizon's wire-line business and customer service employees. As a member of Congress representing the Bronx, many of your workers currently on the streets also happen to be my constituents.

The strike comes after nearly ten months of negotiations ended in stalemate last week. At the heart of the breakdown in negotiations are multiple controversial proposals that I believe will undermine your workers and their rights. Your proposal includes a 6.5 percent wage increase, but this comes with a cost of higher health care contributions and reductions in retirement benefits for employees, essentially negating any positive benefits your workers may see in their income. In addition, you are seeking the flexibility to relocate employees, separating them from their families for months at a time, in order to complete temporary work assignments in other states or regions. Many also believe that your proposals will encourage even greater outsourcing of jobs. Your workers, many of whom have been with your company for years and, in some cases, decades, deserve better. They deserve a fair contract.

Across the country, we continue to see wages stagnate and fail to keep up with the rising costs of housing, food, school, and childcare, and other basic necessities. Employees, especially those who are represented by a union, are intimidated and harassed when they stand up for themselves in the workplace. For far too long, workers and their families have taken a back seat when it comes to sharing in the prosperity that their work and skills help create.

With nearly \$39 billion in profits over the past three years, Verizon continues to be an incredibly lucrative and profitable company. It is reported that your personal income stands at nearly \$18 million annually, and the company's top five executives receive a total of \$47 million each year. Enjoying in profits, at the expense of workers and their families, is a business model that cannot survive. It is time business leaders, like yourself, lead by example and work to ensure the fair treatment of your workers and their families. I believe corporations can be incredibly

successful, while also treating workers with the dignity and respect they deserve. This simple notion is all they ask.

Furthermore, I continue to be concerned that Verizon has not lived up to its commitment to complete the FiOS buildout in New York City. The Bronx has yet to see the many benefits that come with access to new telecommunications infrastructure and services. Too many of my constituents and the small businesses in my District continue to be left behind. I hope you will recommit to moving forward with the buildout in a timely fashion.

As the strike enters its second week, I strongly urge you to reconsider your bargaining position and commit to restarting negotiations in order to reach a favorable agreement that all sides can be proud of. Consider the impact your actions would have on the well-being of the employees that serve Verizon and its millions of customers each and every day.

Thank you for your attention and serious consideration. I look forward to a speedy and thoughtful resolution in this matter, so that Verizon and all its workers can continue to thrive, together.

Sincerely,



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress