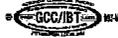


# Steamfitters

## LOCAL UNION #449

Kenneth J. Broadbent, Business Manager  
Joseph M. Little, Secretary - Treasurer  
Michael M. Leaf, President



William E. Beardsley, Jr., Business Age  
Martin J. Noone III, Business Age  
Regis P. Ryan, Business Age

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Re: Application of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and SpectrumCo LLC For Consent To Assign Licenses; Application of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless and Cox TMI Wireless, LLC, WT Docket No. 12-4*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As a Business Agent for Steamfitters Local #449, I am writing to express my concern over Verizon Wireless' joint marketing and spectrum acquisition agreement with cable companies and how it will impact consumers, businesses, and union members. As I understand it, Verizon Wireless and the major cable companies (Comcast, Time Warner, Bright House Networks and, in a separate deal, Cox) will jointly market each other's products. Verizon Wireless and the cable companies will offer a "quadruple play:" wireless service, broadband, video content ("cable TV"), and telephone service. Verizon Wireless will also purchase \$3.9 billion worth of wireless spectrum from Comcast, Time Warner, and Bright House Networks. This deal reverses the long-time rivalry between cable and telephone companies by creating an alliance with overwhelming market power to stifle competition.

I believe this proposal raises a few concerns, including the lack of consumer choice, price increases, and a decrease in service quality.

First, I am concerned that consumers will no longer be able to choose the company from which they want to buy their services. Verizon Wireless and Comcast are, respectively, the nation's largest wireless provider and the largest cable provider. Time Warner and Cox are also the dominant cable company in their regions. The exclusive ability to offer a "quadruple play" and their already dominant status in the market will allow the Verizon Wireless/cable company alliance to exercise unprecedented market power. This deal is contrary to the purpose of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which intends to generate competition for the benefit of consumers with lower prices, better service, and innovation.

Second, I am concerned with the potential increase in cable and wireless prices and lower service quality. The Verizon Wireless/Comcast/Time Warner/Cox behemoth

will eliminate competition. Since wireless, cable, internet and internet-telephone prices are unregulated, prices and service quality will be subject to the desires of an unregulated monopoly by these telecommunications giants. Without any competition, the Verizon/Time Warner/Comcast quasi-monopoly will increase prices for these essential services. Also, the lack of competition fails to provide an incentive to maintain or improve the quality of services, which will result in a reduction in service quality for consumers.

I respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission will address the above mentioned concerns before approving such a transaction. It is imperative that we protect individuals and businesses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regis Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Regis" and the last name "Ryan" clearly distinguishable.

Regis Ryan,  
Business Agent, Steamfitters Local #449