



August 13, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Eric H. Holder
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Attorney General Holder,

I write to express my deep concern about the proposed anti-competitive transaction between Verizon Wireless, the nation's largest wireless carrier, and four of the nation's largest cable companies, Comcast, Time Warner, Cox, and Bright House Networks.

SEIU represents more than 2 million workers. Our members and their families rely on affordable, high-speed Internet for education, access to health care services, job search, information, entertainment, and to communicate with friends, relatives, and elected officials. Our members and their families have seen cable prices rise each year at three times the rate of inflation. Unfortunately, this anti-competitive transaction will lead to higher prices and fewer choices for these services, as well as less investment, significant job loss, and it will grow the digital divide.

Under terms of a joint marketing agreement, Verizon Wireless – a subsidiary of Verizon Communications - and the cable companies would agree to sell each others' products and services. By turning former competitors into business partners, the proposed transaction will undoubtedly raise Internet, video, and phone rates for consumers and reduce competitive pressure to provide quality service.

The proposed Verizon Wireless/cable alliance will also result in substantial job loss. According to an independent study, the transaction will lead to the loss of 72,000 jobs. At a time when our nation is still struggling to emerge from the Great Recession, we cannot afford to allow a job-destroying transaction to move forward.

Moreover, allowing Verizon Wireless and the large cable companies to sell each others' services will reduce Verizon's incentive to build out its high-speed all-fiber network, known as FiOS. There are large cities, including Boston, Buffalo, Baltimore, Syracuse, and Albany, in which Verizon has refused to build its FiOS

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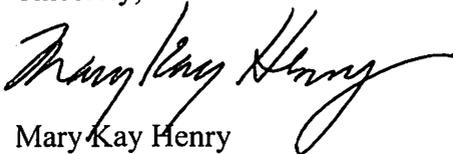
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network, although it has built FiOS to the wealthier suburbs that ring these cities. At a time of growing inequality, and given the importance of high-speed broadband for economic development and education, we cannot afford a widening of the digital divide.

As your agencies review this transaction, I urge you to adopt strong conditions to protect consumers. It is your responsibility to ensure that the cross-marketing and other agreements do not reduce competition, job-creating network investment, consumer choice and that consumers do not end up with higher prices, less service, and a wider divide between the digital haves and have nots.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Kay Henry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mary Kay Henry
International President