

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 23, 2007

Mr. Ivan Seidenberg
Chairman and CEO
Verizon Communications
140 West Street
New York, NY 10007

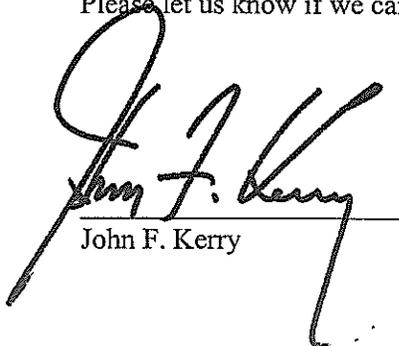
Dear Mr. Seidenberg:

We are alarmed by a recent press report indicating that Verizon will stop seeking new applications to build its advanced broadband network in Massachusetts until it finishes all pending projects. It is reported that the company has decided not to make new commitments in the state until the negotiations it has begun in 22 municipalities are complete. While we expect it is Verizon's intention to negotiate agreements to bring its FiOS broadband service to these communities, in addition to the 45 communities where the company is already authorized to provide service, we remain concerned about the pace of deployment in these communities and about a total lack of planned service in other communities in Massachusetts – large and small – from Boston to North Adams.

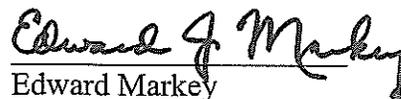
Massachusetts is on the cutting edge of innovation and economic productivity. Our state is the home of some of the finest universities and research institutions in the country and remains an incubator for high-technology and emerging industries. We understand the importance the high-speed Internet access has to our innovative economy. We have both advocated publicly that competitive broadband deployment is critical to our nation's long-term economic health and productivity. We also welcome the competition to cable television that an advanced broadband infrastructure can deliver.

We hope that Verizon does not defend its decision to cease deployment after the remaining handful of communities are done by pointing fingers at state and municipal officials. In our view, state and municipal officials in Eastern Massachusetts have worked hard to facilitate Verizon's deployment consistent with the law and the public interest. Many more communities have been eager to seek a competitor to the cable incumbent and would welcome negotiations for community-wide agreements that permit Verizon to deploy their service promptly. We understand that Verizon has decided to spin-off its wireline assets in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont and that it therefore no longer plans FiOS deployment there. We respectfully ask that the company reassess its decision not to extend FiOS further in Massachusetts and to renew its commitment to the Commonwealth by working with the many communities in which Verizon has thus far chosen not to offer service to reach timely agreements for initiation of advance broadband service.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance.



John F. Kerry



Edward Markey