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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

July 3, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
c/o Natek, Inc.
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20002

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EX PARTE:

**RE: Transfer of Certain Spectrum Licenses and Section 214 Authorizations in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont from Verizon Communications, Inc. and its Subsidiaries to FairPoint Communications, Inc.
WC Docket No. 07-22**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

AARP appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proceeding (WC Docket No. 07-22) regarding FairPoint Communications' acquisition of Verizon local telephone exchanges in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

AARP has a strong commitment to ensuring consumers have access to affordable, high quality telecommunications services. This transaction is important because it could impact rates, service quality, customer service, and access to broadband and other new services for consumers in these New England states. AARP is particularly concerned with the impact of this transaction on mid-life and older Americans relying on these communications services.

We urge the Commission to ensure that the transaction does not put customers at risk of declines in service quality and investment in infrastructure. One way for the Commission to achieve this is by imposing detailed and enforceable conditions, as part of any regulatory approval, to address important residential consumer issues such as service quality and access to broadband and other new services.

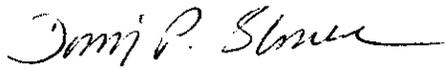
AARP has filed comments with the Vermont Public Service Board and the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire, raising the issues included in this letter as well as concern about the transaction's impact on local rates. Our state offices expressed concern that FairPoint is a significantly smaller company than Verizon and could have difficulties investing in ongoing maintenance and repair, or may not be able to afford to invest in new technologies and services. The residential customer might see deterioration

in service quality and reliability and could experience rate increases. It is appropriate for the Commission to consider these issues and how they impact the public interest.

The concerns expressed above should be carefully assessed when considering whether any transaction is in the public interest, and included during a review of any local exchange sales. Residential customers rely on their local service for critical and essential communications services; the quality of such service should in no way be compromised by an incumbent's sale of local exchanges to another provider.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with you to ensure residential consumers are not harmed in the course of these transactions. If you have any questions or comments regarding this issue, please contact Jo Reed, AARP Federal Affairs staff at (202) 434-3800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David P. Sloane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

David P. Sloane
Senior Managing Director
Government Relations and Advocacy