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## **FAIRPOINT PROPOSING TO INVEST AN INITIAL \$16.1 MILLION IN BROADBAND EXPANSION IN MAINE UPON MERGER COMPLETION**

### ***FairPoint Investment to Augment Verizon's Continued Plans for Maine in 2007***

**PORTLAND, ME (Aug. 29, 2007)** – FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NYSE:FRP) (the “Company” or “FairPoint”) today announced its plan to invest \$16.1 million in expansion of broadband service in scores of Maine communities. The FairPoint plan would be initiated upon completion of its proposed acquisition of the Maine landline business from Verizon Communications Inc. (“Verizon”). The proposed FairPoint plan will expand high speed DSL Internet service in 80 broadband-equipped central telephone offices throughout Maine, substantially expanding service to 135 neighborhoods and communities served by these central offices. Thirty of these communities will receive high speed DSL for the first time. In addition, the expansion will provide broadband capability to seven telephone central offices for the first time

“FairPoint is committed to bringing increased broadband accessibility to the residents and businesses of Maine,” said Peter G. Nixon, FairPoint’s President. “Today’s announcement is a clear indication of how seriously we take this commitment. In addition to enabling many residents of Maine to benefit from high-speed Internet for the first time, we believe that this new broadband availability will provide a significant boost to the Maine economy, giving many Maine businesses the ability to compete more effectively.”

Nixon said the Company’s near-term goal is to extend high-speed Internet capability to over 30,000 additional access lines in Maine following the proposed acquisition. Under this initiative, FairPoint expects to provide broadband capability to 85 percent of its Maine customers within 24 months of the completed acquisition. “We are approaching 100 percent broadband accessibility in our existing FairPoint markets. We intend to continue expanding broadband in the current Verizon service areas in Maine in an effort to reach the same high level of broadband access,” Nixon said.

He noted FairPoint’s \$16.1 million investment will be in addition to the \$12 million investment to which Verizon has already agreed with the Maine Public Advocate for the expansion of broadband in Maine prior to February 2008. Altogether, almost 70,000 customers will have landline broadband access for the first time.

“FairPoint will be installing an advanced, next generation network capable of supporting existing subscriber needs and also providing a platform for future customers,” Nixon said.

The Ethernet network FairPoint is proposing is designed to meet the needs of today and tomorrow's data-centric customers. The Internet uses Internet Protocol (IP) to move traffic across the network and FairPoint's network design will use this highly effective protocol throughout the network. FairPoint intends to capitalize on the existing fiber cable upon which FairPoint will install new electronics equipment. This new electronics equipment supports several ways of reaching the customer, including copper technologies such as DSL and very high speed DSL as well as technologies such as fiber-to-the-home. The Company has successfully rolled out Ethernet-based broadband networks in several of its other markets.

By the end of 2008, FairPoint's DSL expansion plans will provide broadband capability to seven telephone central offices for the first time, serving the following Maine communities: Bradford, Cutler, Grand Isle, Limestone, Littleton, New Sweden and Rockwood.

The DSL equipment in an additional 80 central offices in Maine will be updated with the new technology which will expand broadband availability within the communities. FairPoint intends to expand broadband to neighborhoods in the following communities by the first quarter of 2010: Augusta, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Bath, Belfast, Belgrade, Biddeford, Blue Hill, Bowdoinham, Bridgton, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Caribou, Clinton, Columbia, Corinth, Cornish, Cumberland, Danforth, Deer Isle, Dexter, Eastport, Eddington, Fairfield, Falmouth, and Freeport.

Other central offices include: Gardiner, Greenville, Harpswell, Harrison, Hermon, Houlton, Jonesport, Kennebunkport, Lewiston, Limerick, Lisbon Falls, Livermore Falls, Lubec, Machias, Mars Hill, Mechanic Falls, Milbridge, Monson, Newport, North Berwick, North Deering, North Haven, North Sanford, North Whitefield, Norway, Oakland, Old Town, Orrington and Oxford.

Additional central office expansion will occur in: Pembroke, Phippsburg, Portland, Pownal, Presque Isle, Readfield, Richmond, Rockland, Sabattus, Sanford, Scarborough, Sedgwick, South Portland, Southwest Harbor, Sullivan, Tenants Harbor, Thomaston, Waldoboro, Westbrook, Wilton, Winterport, Wiscasset, Yarmouth and York Beach.

A direct result of these central office expansions will be the establishment of new high speed DSL service in 30 communities for the first time. These communities include: Acton, Addison, Auburn, Brookton, Cherryfield, Dedham, Dennysville, East Wales, Edgecomb, Gouldsboro, Gray, Hancock, Harpswell, Harrington, Hiram, Jefferson, Mapleton, Nobleboro, Ogunquit, Orland, Parsonsfield, Perry, Randolph, St. Agatha, St. George, Steuben, Topsham, Tremont, Warren and Wytotitlock.

"This new access to high-speed Internet will allow residents and businesses in these communities to communicate much more quickly and effectively. Businesses will be able to compete more efficiently and this broadband service will enable them to offer their services to anyone anywhere in the world," said Nixon. "Additionally, this new access to information will provide increased opportunity for Maine's students, allowing them to better compete in today's world economy."

FairPoint had previously announced that it expected to spend an initial total of approximately \$42.7 million in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire combined. The \$16.1 million investment in Maine is part of the previously announced total of \$42.7 million.

### **About FairPoint**

FairPoint is a leading provider of communications services to rural and small urban communities across the country. Incorporated in 1991, FairPoint's mission is to acquire and operate telecommunications companies that set the standard of excellence for the delivery of service to rural and small urban communities. Today, FairPoint owns and operates 30 local exchange companies located in 18 states

offering an array of services, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet and broadband offerings. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FRP".

*This press release may contain forward-looking statements by FairPoint that are not based on historical fact, including, without limitation, statements containing the words "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates" and similar expressions and statements related to potential cost savings and synergies expected to be realized in the merger. Because these forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause actual results, events or developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Such factors include those risks described from time to time in FairPoint's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including, without limitation, the risks described in FairPoint's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K on file with the SEC. These factors should be considered carefully and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. All information is current as of the date this press release is issued, and FairPoint undertakes no duty to update this information.*

Source: FairPoint Communications, Inc., [www.fairpoint.com](http://www.fairpoint.com).

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