

December 14, 2007

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Applications for the 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, DA 07-1314; File Nos. ITC-214-20020705-00324, ITC-214-22200402-00167, ITC-214-20020213-00084, ITC-214-20020705-00325, ITC-214-20020402-00169, ITC-214-20020213-00083, ITC-214-20020213-00082, ITC-214-20020402-00170, ITC-214-20020705-00327, ITC-214-20020705-00326, ITC-214-20020402-00168, ITC-214-20020213-00081, ITC-20020516-00243, 0002921065, 0002921107, and 50005CFTC07; Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

FairPoint Communications, Inc. (“FairPoint”) and Verizon have entered into a Joint Stipulation with the Maine Office of the Public Advocate, the Advocacy Staff of the Maine Public Utilities Commission (“Maine PUC”), Cornerstone Communications, Great Works Internet, and Oxford Networks, in Maine PUC dockets 2005-155 and 2007-67. This Stipulation was filed yesterday with the Maine PUC. Additional intervenors in the Maine dockets who filed in support of this Stipulation include AARP¹ and United States Cellular Corporation. Copies of the non-confidential portions of these filings are enclosed.

This Joint Stipulation represents a substantial settlement with many of the parties in the Maine proceeding reviewing this transaction. FairPoint and Verizon have earnestly worked toward settlement with all the parties in all the pending dockets, and the states are proceeding diligently toward decision on the proposed transaction. It is neither necessary nor appropriate for the FCC to postpone action on the above-captioned applications merely to permit the states to complete their review of the proposed transaction first. The states are completing their own thorough examination of the transaction under their own statutes, and we urge this Commission to do the same. FCC and state action should be independent of one another, as they

¹ AARP is a party only to docket 2005-155, and limited its filing to that docket.

have been in previous transactions.² Prompt approval of the pending applications will help to bring the significant benefits of this transaction to consumers and the economies in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Please direct any question concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Karen Zacharia

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Enclosures

² The Commission routinely reaches a decision on mergers and acquisitions while state and local approvals still are pending, including in such transactions as the Verizon-MCI merger, AT&T-SBC, Qwest-U S West, Verizon Hawaii-Hawaiian Telcom, Valor-Windstream, SBC-PacTel, XO-Allegiance, Cincinnati Bell-IXC Communications, Worldcom-Intermedia, and CenturyTel-Madison River. *See, e.g.,* Letter from FairPoint Communications Inc. and Verizon to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, filed October 10, 2007 in WC Docket 07-22.

cc: Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
Dana R. Shaffer
Donald Stockdale
Jeremy Marcus
William Dever
Adam Kirschenbaum
Matthew B. Berry
Michele Ellison
James R. Bird