



ELECTRONICALLY FILED ON DECEMBER 13, 2007

Karen M. Geraghty, Administrative Director
Maine Public Utilities Commission
State House Station 18
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: **VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.
D/B/A VERIZON MAINE**
Request for Approval of Affiliated Interest Transaction and
Transfer of Assets of Verizon's Property and Customer Relations
to be Merged with and into FairPoint Communications, Inc.,
Docket No. 2007-67

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Investigation into New Alternative Form of
Regulation for Verizon Maine Pursuant to
35-A M.R.S.A. Sec. 9102-9103
Docket No. 2005-155

***THIS IS A VIRTUAL DUPLICATE OF THE ORIGINAL HARDCOPY
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS
ELECTRONIC FILING INSTRUCTIONS***

Dear Ms. Geraghty:

AARP submits the following in response to the December 13 procedural order in the above referenced dockets. AARP has received and reviewed the partial stipulation to Docket Nos. 2007-67 and 2005-155 that was filed early on December 13.

AARP, as a party to the AFOR docket, 2005-155, supports Section 3.C. ("AFOR Settlement", pp. 12-13) of the proposed stipulation, as currently drafted. AARP has been an active party in the AFOR case based on our analysis that Verizon's rates for basic local phone service should be reduced significantly. The stipulation provision at Section 3.C. will finally implement the rate cut that Maine customers have deserved for years. If approved, this provision is estimated to result in a reduction of several dollars in the monthly rate for basic local residential and business service for a period of five years. This rate reduction would achieve AARP's goal of rate relief for our members and other

customers. We reserve the right to withdraw our support should any terms of this provision change prior to final approval by the Commission.

The stipulation at Section 3.B. ("DSL Commitment", pp 10-12) also references Docket No. 2005-155 to which AARP is a party. AARP will not oppose that portion of the stipulation.

AARP is not a party to the merger case, Docket No.2007-67 and therefore, we are taking no position for or against those provisions of the stipulation relating to that case. AARP requests that neither the Commission nor any party represent our position as in support of or in opposition to the merger stipulation or the merger itself. AARP's support is limited to those provisions of the AFOR referenced above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jud Dolphin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jud Dolphin
State Director
AARP Maine