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New Jersey Bd. Of Public Utilities
Kristi Izzo, Secretary
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March 23, 2014

Via regular mail & e-mail
board.secretary@bpu.state.nj.us

Re: Verizon New Jersey Docket No. T012020155

To the Board of Public Utilities :

We, the Shoemaker Family , residing in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County , strongly oppose the acceptance of Verizon's Stipulation of Agreement for the following reasons:

1. Verizon plays the percentage game to keep the BPU happy. They claim a very high percentage of build out and satisfactory service in the high density areas of the State to mask the total lack of acceptable service and build out in rural New Jersey. Acceptance of this proposal will allow them to conduct business-as-usual plus charge us additional fees for the lowest grade service available including copper wire.
2. We are a Family Farm and have a family run farm services business in Hopewell . If it rains our copper wire phone and FAX lines are inoperable and we often have no phone service for several days. Our cell phones don't work in our buildings and in many areas in Hopewell and the neighboring townships. This is a health and safety problem as well as a business disaster.
3. Dial-up internet was useless and our Hughes Net is slow and intermittent. An increasing number of Federal and State forms must be downloaded and e-filed. Contracts, billing, bidding, banking, sales, ordering, etc. are done on-line. A business today is only as good as it's ability to communicate.
4. Both our children live and work in Hopewell and we have 6 grandchildren in Hopewell Crest School from kindergarten to 8th grade. In this agreement Verizon is even trying to weasel out of supplying the Public Entities the best fiber optic service available. The health and safety of the public and education of our kids means nothing to them. The Public Entities in our rural communities can't do their job if they can't communicate with their citizens. Both need to be served by the best technology of the day .
5. It is obvious to us in rural Hopewell Township, Cumberland County that Verizon has failed miserably over the years to maintain their existing infrastructure and has made no effort whatsoever to upgrade and grow with advancing technology. We were unaware that they have been for some time required to do so. We see nothing in their bonafide retail request (BFRR) that they have any intention of complying with their last Alternative Plan for Regulation(PAR 2) and it's continued Opportunity New Jersey (ONJ) requirement. This Stipulation of Agreement should be rejected in its entirety and they should be forced to comply with ONJ and PAR-2.

Respectfully submitted:

Joe and Betty Shoemaker

cc: See page 2

Governor Chris Christy

Third District Legislators : Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assemblyman John Burzichelli,
Assemblywoman Celeste Riley

First District Legislators: Senator Jeff Van Drew, Assemblymen Robert Andrzejczak and Sam Fiochi

New Jersey League of Municipalities

New Jersey Farm Bureau

Cumberland County Board of Freeholders

Cumberland County Planning Board Rural Infrastructure Committee

Cumberland County Ag Development Board

Cumberland County Board of Ag

Hopewell Township Committee

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