

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

M. CLAIRE FRENCH
NJAC President
Monmouth County Clerk

JOHN G. DONNADIO
Executive Director

March 24, 2014

Ms. Kristi Izzo, Secretary
NJ Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: VERIZON STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

Dear Ms. Izzo:

Please be advised that the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) respectfully opposes the *BPU-Verizon Stipulation of Settlement Docket No. TO 12020155* because it does not serve the best interests of residents and businesses located in rural counties throughout the State of New Jersey.

NJAC submits that Verizon should comply with its obligations under Opportunity New Jersey, which required Verizon to provide high speed fiber optic service (FIOS) to 100% of its service area by 2010. As has been well documented, approximately 2% - 7% of the State's residents and businesses in Atlantic, Burlington, Cumberland, Cape May, Hunterdon, Salem, and Warren counties lack access to a fixed broadband network. Under the proposed Stipulation of Settlement, these residents and business would be relegated to using less reliable and more expensive technologies for vital education, commerce, and communication needs.

With this in mind, NJAC recommends that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities reject the Stipulation of Settlement, and require Verizon to provide reasonably priced, reliable, and high speed internet access to residents and businesses throughout the State as intended by Opportunity New Jersey in 1993. Thank you for your time and consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

John G. Donnadio, Esq.
Executive Director

