

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 30, 2016

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Paul H. Sunu
Chief Executive Officer
FairPoint Communications
521 E. Morehead Street, Suite 500
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Mr. Sunu:

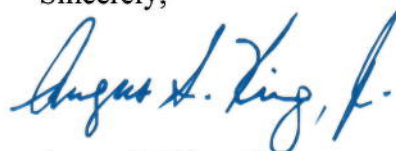
I write today to follow up on a recent phone call that I had with Mike Reed, FairPoint's State President for Maine, to discuss planned layoffs that will impact your employees in Maine. Though Mr. Reed and I had a positive conversation and I appreciate his attention to this matter, I feel that I must press my case further, and so I am reaching out to you directly. In consideration of your workers, their families, and the businesses and households across Maine who rely on FairPoint's services, I respectfully urge you to reconsider these job cuts and do whatever you can to minimize the impact on FairPoint's workforce in Maine.

While I understand the market forces that have been placing downward pressure on FairPoint's revenue for telephone service, the phone and broadband services that your company provides, and the good jobs that enable these services, are too important to people in Maine for them to be curtailed. Maine's economic future depends in large part on ubiquitous high-speed broadband availability, a goal that will only be possible if companies like FairPoint retain skilled workers to build and maintain next-generation networks.

I have had frequent discussions with your company about these issues, and I will continue to do what I can to support federal policies, like the Connect America Fund, and regulatory policies that foster investment in rural networks. The proposed acquisition of FairPoint by Consolidated Communications offers an opportunity to further ramp up necessary network investment, and I am concerned with the degree to which the scheduled layoffs may impact future efforts.

With all of this in mind, and thinking particularly of FairPoint's employees during the holiday season, I hope that you will work to retain as many positions as possible until a potential merger with Consolidated Communications is complete, as the new company may well have need of all of FairPoint's existing workers. I look forward to continuing to work with you to maintain your company's important investments and commitments to the State of Maine. Should you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator