



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

December 16, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Sunu:

I write to express my concern about the ongoing layoffs at FairPoint Communications and to encourage FairPoint to recognize the importance of its workforce to maintaining New Hampshire's telecommunications infrastructure and competitiveness.

The work done by the employees of FairPoint is critical to our state's communications infrastructure, our public safety systems, and our regional economy, with businesses and consumers across New England relying on FairPoint's services and its hard-working employees. The layoffs announced last month are concerning for customers who depend on FairPoint's employees to respond in a timely way to connect services and keep the network operating. A strong workforce is needed to ensure that FairPoint delivers the high-quality services on which New Hampshire consumers rely.

FairPoint and Consolidated Communications must also work to ensure that the recently announced acquisition -- should it be approved -- does not interrupt services for New Hampshire customers. I am hopeful that the acquisition will result in improved services for New Hampshire businesses and families, but the onus is on the companies to demonstrate the advantages for New Hampshire's consumers.

I encourage FairPoint and Consolidated Communications to invest appropriately in their hard-working employees throughout the transition process and beyond to ensure that customers receive high-quality services, and to recognize that these employees are the backbone of the services that the companies provide. Consolidated Communications should also continue to respect the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated in good faith with the unions who represent FairPoint's employees.

Thank you for your consideration.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maggie L", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor