



# The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

December 22, 2016

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

C. Robert Udell, Jr.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Consolidated Communications Holdings  
121 South 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938

Mr. Sunu and Mr. Udell:

We write to express our grave concern for New Hampshire employees and their families given the announced FairPoint plan to lay off 10 percent of their workforce by the end of 2016, including dozens of workers in New Hampshire. These layoffs will have a serious impact on New Hampshire's working families at a particularly difficult time of year.

A strong and reliable communications network is vital to New Hampshire's economy, public safety, and quality of life. We are concerned that laying off highly-trained, experienced local workers will jeopardize the phone and broadband services that New Hampshire businesses and families rely upon.

FairPoint has had a capable, skilled, and professional workforce made up of people who make their homes and their lives in our state. We view a workforce like this as a major strategic asset and we hope that any company that does business in New Hampshire shares this view. New Hampshire is a very welcoming state, especially to companies who want to be here and help grow our economy. But we also expect companies who do business here to invest in our state and our people so that they can provide the products and services that we deserve.

We understand that Consolidated Communications will be acquiring FairPoint for \$1.5 billion. It is imperative that this acquisition be in best interest of New Hampshire workers and customers and that you avoid the catastrophic failures that occurred after FairPoint's acquisition of Verizon's Northern New England business in 2008. We believe workforce reductions will seriously hinder Consolidated Communications' ability to ensure improved customer service and improved access to critical telecommunications services, should this sale be approved.

We respectfully ask that FairPoint immediately reverse the announced layoffs, and that Consolidated Communications agree to honor the Collective Bargaining Agreement that has been negotiated in good faith with the unions who represent FairPoint employees. Further, we ask that Consolidated Communications immediately make public their post-acquisition workforce plan, including any future layoffs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sen. Jeff Woodburn  
Minority Leader



Sen. Donna Soucy  
Deputy Minority Leader



Sen. David Watters



Sen. Martha Hennessey



Sen. Jay Kahn



Sen. Bette Lasky



Sen. Dan Feltes



Sen. Scott McGilvray



Sen. Lou D'Allesandro



Sen. Martha Fuller Clark