

Resolution Relating to Maintaining Fairpoint Communications Jobs and Innovative Technological Work in the State of Maine

WHEREAS, solutions to competitive demands on businesses in Maine and throughout the United States and abroad often involve downsizing and outsourcing instead of investing in our communities and protecting workers and their families, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that maintaining good jobs with good pay & benefits in the State of Maine is encouraged of all businesses, ensuring working families employed in Maine have job stability, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that Fairpoint workers and their families have suffered through extreme downsizing efforts by Fairpoint, with a loss of over 55% of the workforce since 2008, including layoffs in 2015 and again at the end of this month, as well as a Fairpoint bankruptcy in 2010, and a four month strike in 2014-2015; and

WHEREAS, Fairpoint Communications in Maine has been and continues downsizing their workforce and has not invested adequately in an innovative communications infrastructure, nor added any new technology driven jobs in the State of Maine, and

WHEREAS, The residents and businesses across Maine deserve high quality telecommunications services including state-of-the-art fixed broadband services, and not a network that Fairpoint has chosen to abandon and neglect ever further; and

WHEREAS, Fairpoint Communications has decided to sell their operations in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to Consolidated Communications, LLC; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Fairpoint Communications, as a result of their downsizing efforts and pending sale are abandoning the State of Maine in terms of both job creation and bringing advanced broadband communications to the State of Maine;

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western Maine Central Labor Council promotes collaborative efforts of governments, business and labor in the dynamic field of telecommunications to employ workers in Maine and partner with the communities across Maine in sustaining and growing a high-performance economy, benefitting consumers, working families, and our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western Maine Central Labor Council supports innovative job growth and retaining technology driven jobs with good pay and benefits, and strongly encourages Fairpoint Communications and Consolidated Communications to create opportunities to retain the Fairpoint jobs In Maine and abandon their plans for further layoffs in December of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western Maine Central Labor Council finds that good jobs and telecommunications services are vital to our community and we will provide a copy of this resolution to Fairpoint Communications and Consolidated Communications, strongly encouraging both companies to consider the impact to customer service and quality and to their employees by laying-off more of their workforce, further eroding our confidence that Fairpoint and Consolidated Communications are acting in the public interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Western Maine Central Labor Council, supports the Fairpoint workers and opposes further layoffs in the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Passed and Adopted by the Western Maine Central Labor Council this 20th day of December, 2016.

Western Maine Central Labor Council



President Don Berry



Vice-President Don Biledeau



Treasurer David Projansky



Recording Secretary Cynthia Phinney