

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Sunu:

With the recent announcement that Consolidated Communications will be purchasing FairPoint, your company's rocky tenure as a telecommunications provider in Vermont is coming to an end. We sincerely hope the sale, if approved, will result in improved customer service and the creation of good jobs in our communities. However, it is deeply distressing that one of FairPoint's last actions in our state is laying off even more workers.

As you know, we were very critical of FairPoint's decision to cut worker pay and benefits that led to a four-month strike in 2014-15, and even more so of the company's decision just three months later to close the South Burlington call center and lay off more than seventy unionized workers.

Just last month, FairPoint said it would lay off nearly 10 percent of its remaining workforce, presumably to make the company more attractive for sale. However, such a move makes no sense for a company that continues to struggle with significant service quality issues.

Moreover, it is particularly callous to destroy the livelihoods of loyal FairPoint workers just as the cold weather approaches and as families prepare to celebrate the holiday season. These workers helped build the company's value, yet they are being discarded as collateral damage of a sale designed to maximize profits for a tiny group of Wall Street hedge fund investors.

We urge you to reverse this decision and send the clear message that FairPoint values its workers and the communities in which the company operates.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator



Peter Welch
U.S. Congressman