

PETER SHUMLIN  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 12, 2014

Paul Sunu, CEO  
FairPoint Communications  
521 E. Morehead Street  
Suite 500  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Paul:

Thank you for speaking with me again today regarding the ongoing strike of FairPoint workers in Vermont.

I called to urge you once again to come to the table with the IBEW and the CWA and resolve this strike. This has gone on long enough.

As you and everyone in Vermont know, we have seen a significant and unacceptable rise in service quality issues in recent months. While the uptick preceded the strike, it has worsened substantially since the strike began. Just after Thanksgiving, our E-911 service and telephone service went down due to FairPoint equipment. During this past week, we have seen repeated service outages that have affected many Vermonters, one of our largest credit unions, and even a local police department. Telephone and internet are vital services, and disruptions can cause not only inconvenience but also safety risks for those who rely on them.

I am not looking for explanations or excuses. I am looking for resolution. We have many Vermont men and women out on strike, rather than working hard to provide better service to Vermonters, because the parties have made no progress toward compromise in this long-standing dispute. Those workers know the systems and equipment better than anyone, and they are in the best position to keep these critical communication services running reliably.

Enough is enough. Come back to the table; listen; and compromise. I will urge the unions to do likewise, because I understand that both sides must work to find common ground. Failing to negotiate at all is proving to be a losing strategy for FairPoint, as your customers and your state partners lose faith in the company's ability to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin  
Governor of Vermont