

Ivan Seidenberg  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



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January 16, 2009

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller  
Chairman  
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Rockefeller and Waxman and Ranking Members Hutchison and Barton:

On Monday of this week I wrote to each of you expressing concern about an open-ended extension of the February 17, 2009 Digital Television Transition deadline. Events since Monday have reduced the danger of repeated delay and Verizon, as a result, can support a carefully limited extension of the deadline.

Today's letter from President-Elect Obama's Transition Team to each of you called for the delay to be "limited and specific." The letter also noted that Chairman Rockefeller intended to introduce legislation that would accomplish that goal. We understand Chairman Rockefeller's draft Bill will extend the hard deadline from February 17 to June 12, 2009. I had the opportunity to speak with Chairman Rockefeller today, and he strongly set out his view that this limited extension would be the only delay in the transition.

Because of these important developments, Verizon agrees that a one-time delay from February 17 to June 12, as reflected in Senator Rockefeller's draft Bill, is appropriate. Any further delay would harm the nation's economy and broadband future, as I noted in my letter earlier this week.

The Transition Team's letter also acknowledged the concerns Senator McCain raised yesterday regarding the need to exempt public safety spectrum in the Upper 700 MHz band from any delay. Verizon agrees that this is an issue that deserves attention and resolution. Verizon looks forward to working with you to resolve this important issue.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

Ivan Seidman