



CHELLIE PINGREE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, MAINE

December 19, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Sunu:

I am deeply disappointed that the strike has continued for over two months. It is nearly Christmas, and yet hundreds of dedicated, skilled and experienced workers are still off the job, out in the cold, walking a picket line. The workers have offered significant concessions of over \$200 million and shown a willingness to discuss a labor agreement at any time and in any place, yet the company seems to be stuck on a demand for \$700 million in cuts.

Maine—and the rest of New England—depends on FairPoint for maintaining a critical telecommunications infrastructure. This infrastructure is best maintained by the experienced and highly qualified workers who have been on the job for years. It doesn't seem to me that the company's push to outsource jobs to low paid and less experienced contractors is the best way to maintain this infrastructure.

The ongoing strike and what seems like an unwillingness to compromise on the part of the company is bad for the workers and their families, bad for the telecommunications systems in New England and bad for our region's economy. The company's insufficient response to these contract negotiations causes me to question whether taxpayer dollars are being wisely spent on government contracts with FairPoint.

I urge FairPoint to return to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract so these highly skilled employees can go back to work repairing and maintaining our telecommunications infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chellie Pingree", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress