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February 20 2014

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue 9<sup>th</sup> Floor P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

Subject: Docket No. TO12020155

Dear Members of the Board of Utilities:

CASE MANAGEMENT busines Since 1996, the New Jersey Technology Council (NJTC) has provided business support, networking opportunities, information, advocacy, and recognition of technology companies and their leaders. As an advocate for technology companies across many sectors, the NJTC continuously monitors federal and state policies that impact the growth of the state's technology industry. Therefore, with reference to the above docket, we encourage you to approve the proposed stipulation between Verizon and your staff.

Over the years, aggressive competition in the communications industry and robust private investment in network infrastructure have made New Jersey the most wired broadband state in the United States. Broadband Internet access has had a transformative effect on our society and economy. Combining vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and powerful new tools have given way to tremendous economic gains for New Jersey. Our diverse members are using high-speed wireless and wired broadband networks to deliver products and services that would not have been fathomable years ago. Furthermore, they are creating jobs in their communities that benefit local economies across the state.

From schools and libraries to healthcare institutions to everyday life, New Jersey consumers are also benefiting from greater availability of broadband technologies. Consider, for example, that some doctors are now using innovative techniques and remote monitoring tools made possible by ubiquitous broadband connections to provide care and consultation to patients who are unable to visit a hospital in-person.

Certainly, prudent public policies that encourage broadband investment and expansion have a played a role and Opportunity New Jersey has contributed to this success story. We must ensure New Jersey is positioned to harness these next generation broadband networks. For that reason, we urge you to approve the proposed stipulation to continue to encourage broadband deployment in New Jersey.

Sincerely.

Maxine Ballen, President and CEO New Jersey Technology Council

President & CEO Charter Members

Maxine Ballen

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