



WOODLAND TOWNSHIP * BURLINGTON COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

P.O. Box 388, Chatsworth, NJ 08019

www.woodlandtownship.org

Telephone 609-726-1700 Fax 609-726-1996

Matthew Henrich Mark Herndon

William DeGroff

Mayor

Committeeman

Committeeman

Maryalice Brown, RMC, CTC, CMR

mbrown@woodlandtownship.org

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Kristi Izzo, Secretary
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: Verizon New Jersey
Docket No: TO12020155

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Township of Woodland, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments related to the Board's proposed settlement in the above matter. The ability of the Township's taxpayers to utilize high speed broadband service is an issue that I have been fighting for over a long time period, and any opportunity for rural Woodland Township to obtain that service for its residents -- when all other surrounding communities already have access to high speed broadband service -- is something that I will pursue wholeheartedly. We'd like to provide you with some background on the Township, because by the terms of the proposed settlement, it appears that we would benefit. If we currently don't plan to benefit from the proposed settlement, we don't think it would be unreasonable to amend the terms of the settlement to include our community, because we certainly believe that your intention is to bring high speed broadband service to a community like ours.

In that regard, our town is comprised of approximately 500 homes, one elementary school, and a handful of commercial businesses. Woodland Township is located in a very rural area, the so-called core area of the Pinelands National Reserve, and contains approximately 95 square miles although all residents are within an 8 mile radius. Municipal tax ratables in the Township are scarce, and the Township's ability to raise revenue for local purposes is greatly limited. The rural nature of Woodland Township has been institutionalized by the stringent land use regulations established by the state Legislature and the New Jersey Pinelands Commission since the early 1980's. Nevertheless, we still function as a community and, as the "Capital of the Pines", our residents still go to school and participate in the community and the work force like anyone else. In order to remain fully connected to today's world, and equally important in order to remain competitive in today's economy, high speed broadband service has become a necessity, but until now our residents don't have access.

By its terms, the proposed settlement appears to be intended to benefit a community like ours. Upon hearing that the BPU is going to enforce the PAR 1 & 2, I felt as though we've finally been heard, and that our residents and students will finally have the same opportunities the majority of New Jerseyans have. Please know that the BPU has the support of Woodland Township in their quest to make Verizon stand behind the agreement.

If I can be of any assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Matthew Henrich, Mayor
Woodland Township