

# Battleground Bulletin

CWA Dist. 4, AFL-CIO

Update #15

Jan. 8, 2010



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## Fighting Verizon's Dirty Deal with Frontier

CWA has been fighting to block the sale of 4.8 million Verizon landlines in 14 states to Frontier. The sale would mean a \$600 million tax savings for Verizon and \$3.3 billion in new debt for Frontier, making it very unlikely that Frontier could build out high speed broadband or provide other advanced telecommunications services.

Similar deals have been a disaster for workers. Less than three years after Verizon's sale of its New England landlines to FairPoint Communications, that company filed for bankruptcy. Now, workers face cutbacks and job losses, customers face deteriorating service and the lack of high speed broadband and other new technologies. Hawaiian Telecom also filed for bankruptcy after Verizon used the same tax loophole to dump its landlines in Hawaii.

A solution to prevent these deals in the future is on the horizon. Rep. Paul Hodes (D-N.H.) and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) are introducing a Bill to close the "Reverse Morris Trust" tax loophole that permits it. In the meanwhile, the fight to protect jobs for CWA members at Verizon goes on.

## Health Reform or Attack on Our Benefits?

You Decide...

What the difference between good health care reform and disaster? Well, you could answer in many different ways. Here's two: 1) The House Bill and the Senate Bill, or 2) Us!

The House and Senate each passed a health reform Bill that do some good things. However, cut through the political clutter and it all comes down to at least two enormous differences: The House Bill provides a public option and makes companies that don't provide insurance and the super rich pay for reform. The Senate Bill, protects insurance companies from competition and worse still, makes *US* pay for it!!

Again, to cut through the political clutter, who will ultimately determine what the final bill looks like after the House and Senate negotiate? We do. We can choose to sit on our hands and let the lobbyists and big corporations make us pay, or we can get on the phone—NOW, and every day--to our members of Congress!

Call your member of Congress and demand that they reject the excise tax on our health benefits and make the corporations who don't provide insurance for their employees and the super rich pay the cost of health care reform! It's really that simple. Stop reading grab your phone, punch in the number below and your zip code and repeat after me:

**"Don't tax *my* health benefits to pay for health care reform!! Make the companies that *don't* provide insurance and the super rich pay."**

**1-888-580-0792**  
CWA's Congressional Switchboard