

**Requesting The Public Service Commission To Direct Verizon To Provide Fiber-Optic Internet Access To The Hudson Valley**

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Richard Parete and Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Roberts and Ronk)

Legislator David Donaldson and Legislators Allen, Archer, Bartels, Briggs, Greene, Gregorius, Loughran, John Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, and Wishnick offer the following:

WHEREAS, reliable, affordable, high-speed internet is a necessity, not a luxury, in today's world, and the fastest, most reliable internet access is via fiber-optics; and

WHEREAS, the lack of high speed internet access required by local businesses is discouraging them from expanding into Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, all businesses, schools and residents in Ulster County should not be denied the same access and services that are readily available to consumers in downstate New York; and

WHEREAS, Verizon is refusing to complete and expand the installation of its fiber-optic cable in remaining portions of Ulster County, claiming that it cannot justify the cost of the installation of fiber-optic cables, that hooking them up to the homes of potential customers is expensive, and that it takes a long time for Verizon to recover that investment; and

WHEREAS, despite such claims, FiOS is indeed profitable for Verizon; and

WHEREAS, New York State has appropriated \$500 million dollars of taxpayer monies in the State budget to enable Verizon to build a fiber-optic network across the State; and

WHEREAS, Verizon is a public utility and controls rights-of-way and, as such, has an obligation to provide high-speed services to all users; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission has the regulatory authority to demand that Verizon act if it fails to do so; and

WHEREAS, Legislative and public pressure upon Verizon would raise the likelihood of it yielding to the demand the installation of fiber-optic cables and completion of work already begun locally, thereby favoring and benefiting the interests of consumers; now, therefore, be it

**Resolution No. 324      August 18, 2015**

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature requests the Public Service Commission to use their regulatory authority and direct Verizon to immediately take all action necessary to deliver and make available to our community high speed internet access via the installation of fiber-optics; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature, on behalf of the residents of Ulster County, requests that the New York State Assembly and Senate support this action on behalf of their constituents,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20              NOES: 2  
(Noes: Legislators Belfiglio and Ronk)  
(1 Abstention: Legislator R. Parete)

Passed Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on August 17, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of August in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature