



## COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **West Virginia Frontier “Legacy” Employees Working Without a Contract Management Demands Concessions From Workers While Executives Get Big Pay Increases**

As of midnight last night the Frontier Communications contract with St. Mary’s CWA Local 2001 expired, leaving the majority of Frontier “legacy” employees in West Virginia working without a contract. Frontier’s contract with 100 legacy employees from Bluefield CWA Local 2276 expired last Tuesday at midnight.

“Legacy” employees are those who worked for the Company before it purchased Verizon’s wireline assets in July 2010. More than 1,600 former Verizon-WV employees are covered by a separate agreement that expires in 2013.

Management representatives and the Union’s elected bargaining committee have been bargaining intermittently since mid-August and had extended the contract twice for both locals.

The company is demanding concessions, including significant increases to employees’ health care costs over the next three years and raising rates for retirees who are often on fixed incomes.

“These workers are frustrated and disappointed with their company for trying to shift more and more costs on to the average worker while showering top executives with millions in bonuses and stock options,” said Elaine Harris, an International Representative with CWA and a member of the bargaining committee.

“Legacy” employees helped position Frontier to purchase Verizon landlines, a lucrative deal for the company. In the aftermath of the sale the Frontier board of directors awarded their top five executives with bonuses and stock awards totaling \$5.4 million. CEO Maggie Wilderotter received a 77% increase in her compensation in 2010 alone.

At a recent address to Wall Street investors CEO Maggie Wilderotter said, “They are hitting on all cylinders now in West Virginia, both on the residential side and the business side.” She went on to assure stockholders their annual dividends are “safe and secure.”

“It’s unfortunate that Frontier’s own workers cannot feel safe and secure, especially in this economic environment,” said Harris. “Our members are the ones who are servicing 500 new business customers, expanding the broadband network in the state, and are ready 24/7 to provide emergency repairs when disasters strike.

These workers ensure the company’s success and now Frontier management is trying to force them to accept an unfair deal.”

Approximately 150 Frontier legacy employees continue to work without a contract, as CWA struggles with Frontier management to negotiate a fair deal in ongoing contract talks.