

# Think Progress

## Verizon Wireless tries to ‘set the record straight’ on its sponsorship of climate denier rally.

By [Amanda Terkel](#) on Sep 13th, 2009 at 9:39 am

In recent weeks, [Verizon Wireless has come under intense criticism](#) for its \$1,000 sponsorship of the [coal-powered](#) “Friends of America Rally,” which was held in West Virginia on Labor Day. The point of the gathering was to rail against the Waxman-Markey clean energy legislation. Verizon executives [refused to cancel](#) the sponsorship, and even responded by [mocking environmental activists](#). Now, Verizon Wireless CEO Lowell McAdam has written a [letter](#) to the Center for Biological Diversity expressing regret at the “confusion” the sponsorship caused and distancing the company from the rally organizers’ positions:

First, let me be clear that the decision to \$1,000 to the event was a local decision focused on promoting our products at the event. **It was not a statement of our position on any public policy issue, and it certainly was not an expression of support for mountaintop removal coal mining or in opposition to climate legislation.**

Verizon supports the goals of policy makers who are committed to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

(HT: [Treehugger](#) and [NRDC Switchboard](#))

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<http://thinkprogress.org/2009/09/13/verizon-apologize-coal/>