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## **Verizon says coal industry rally sponsorship not endorsement**

By Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Verizon Wireless says its sponsorship of a Labor Day rally supporting the coal industry was not an endorsement for mountaintop removal mining.

Verizon Wireless CEO Lowell McAdam also says in a letter to the Center for Biological Diversity that Verizon remains committed to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

The center was among a coalition of 47 conservation and faith organizations that urged Verizon to withdraw its sponsorship of the Friends of America Rally in Holden.

The center's executive director, Kieran Suckling, received McAdam's response on Saturday.

Suckling plans to share the letter with 225,000 members, who will decide whether Verizon's explanation is satisfactory. Some may decide to cancel their phone service.