



September 4, 2009

Lowell McAdam  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Verizon Wireless

Dear Mr. McAdam:

We are writing on behalf of the millions of members of our organizations to request that you withdraw sponsorship of the Friends of America Rally being put on by the coal industry in West Virginia on Labor Day in support of mountaintop removal coal mining and in opposition to climate legislation.

We believe that Verizon Wireless' sponsorship of this event indicates the company's support for mountaintop removal coal mining and indicates opposition to climate change legislation. It is undeniable that the rally is a political event, for several reasons: Attendees must register for tickets online next to a link to sign a petition that's against climate legislation; the keynote speaker is a prominent critic of global climate change science; and the stated purpose of the event is to protect coal-mining jobs, with a particular focus on mountaintop removal. Thus, by sponsoring this event, Verizon Wireless is also endorsing the political positions behind the event.

Coal is one of the largest sources of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Mountaintop removal coal mining has destroyed more than 1,200 miles of streams and more than 1 million acres of forest in Appalachia, while permanently contaminating drinking-water supplies, endangering residents with dust, fly rock, and mud slides, and jeopardizing imperiled species.

We ask that Verizon Wireless withdraw sponsorship of this event or explain the company's support for mountaintop removal coal mining and opposition to climate legislation. If Verizon Wireless indeed does not support mountaintop removal coal mining, then we ask that you officially let your customers know that you oppose this destructive practice.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity  
(signatories continued on next page)

Allegheny Defense Project  
Appalachian Voices  
Broadened Horizons Organic Teaching Farm  
Bull Mountain Land Alliance  
California Chaparral Institute  
Caney Fork Headwaters Association  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Christians Caring for Creation  
Clinch Coalition  
Coal River Mountain Watch  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ecumenical Ecojustice Network  
Endangered Habitats League  
Energy Justice Network  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
Florida League of Conservation Voters  
Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley  
Global Exchange  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Greenpeace USA  
Heartwood  
Highlands Nature Sanctuary  
HOPE (Help Our Polluted Environment) in Taylor County, FL  
Kentucky Heartwood  
Kids to the Country  
Mid South Mediation Services  
Native Forest Council  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility  
New Sustainability Project  
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
Public Resource Associates  
Rainforest Action Network  
Rainforest Relief  
Responsible Endowments Coalition  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards  
SustainUS: US Youth for Sustainable Development  
Tennessee Environmental Council  
Tennessee Forests Council