



State of Rhode Island

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

October 2, 2026

Nathan Pham
Director, State and Government Affairs
Verizon
6 Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Pham:

We contact you today on behalf of residents in Little Compton, Rhode Island, who are concerned about the future of their telephone service. As their State Representative and Senator, we have received numerous inquiries as constituents share their concerns about this change in service.

Many have recently received a letter informing them of Verizon's plans to discontinue copper wire-based telephone service. The letter frames the discontinuation as a shift from outdated copper technology to fiber optic broadband, cable or wireless-based service.

Unfortunately, two of those three options are not currently reliably available in Little Compton.

Wireless signals in rural Little Compton are extremely weak and unreliable. Our constituents there consistently report poor cellular service. We have had similar experiences in Little Compton, and have at times resorted to bringing along paper printouts of information that would typically be accessed by cell phone because cellular service there is insufficient for many applications. This lack of reliable cellular/wireless service makes this option non-viable for Little Compton residents.

While fiber optic broadband is not yet available there, Little Compton has been approved to receive Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding to expand fiber optic broadband service to customers. Your company estimates it will be installing fiber optic service in town within two years.

As such, we respectfully request that Verizon hold off on the discontinuation of copper landlines in Little Compton until fiber optic capabilities become available there.

We should note that Verizon could change the situation by expediting the construction of the new fiber optic broadband technology and working to improve wireless capabilities in the area. Both options would be welcomed by residents while also supporting your effort to discontinue the use of the copper network.

We are happy to discuss this matter with you further. You can reach Senator DiPalma at (401) 339-2773 and Representative McGaw at (401) 250-3571.

Sincerely,



Michelle E. McGaw

Representative – District 71

Portsmouth, Tiverton, Little Compton



Louis P. DiPalma

Senator – District 12

Middletown, Little Compton, Newport, Tiverton

cc: Frank McMahon