Resolution No. 333-26

Resolution In Opposition To The Discontinuation Of Verizon Copper Landline Service In Greene County

WHEREAS, Verizon has announced its intention to discontinue traditional copper landline telephone service in certain areas, with a proposed shut-off date of November 30, 2026, pending Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval; and

WHEREAS, numerous residents of Greene County, particularly those living in rural, mountainous, and outlying areas, rely on copper landlines as their only dependable form of communication due to inconsistent and unreliable access to cellular phone services; and

WHEREAS, Greene County frequently experiences extended power outages-sometimes lasting several days or weeks-during which copper landline service continues to function without the need for household electricity, providing a critical lifeline for emergency communication; and

WHEREAS, the discontinuation of copper landline service would leave many households, especially those in hard-to-reach areas, without any reliable means of contacting emergency responders during storms, natural disasters, and infrastructure failures; and

WHEREAS, this proposed discontinuation poses a particular danger to senior residents who may not use, understand, or have access to cellular phones or internet-based communication methods, and for whom traditional landlines remain essential to their safety and independence; and

WHEREAS, Greene County administers a Senior Call-In Safety Program, operated by the Greene County Sheriff's Office, which provides daily welfare check-in calls to participating seniors-many of whom depend on traditional landlines as their primary and most reliable form of communication; and

WHEREAS, the termination of copper landline service threatens the functionality and effectiveness of this vital public-safety program and places vulnerable residents at increased risk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greene County Legislature hereby opposes Verizon's proposed discontinuation of copper landline telephone service in Greene County unless and until reliable, resilient, and fully accessible alternative communication methods are available to all residents, regardless of geography, income, or technological ability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Greene County Legislature urges the Federal Communications Commission, the New York State Public Service Commission, and Verizon to prioritize public safety and ensure that no resident is left without dependable means of communication, especially during emergencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Greene County Legislature calls upon federal and state representatives to advocate on behalf of Greene County residents and protect the continuity of copper landline service for all communities lacking reliable alternatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Greene County Legislature shall send certified copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, Verizon Corporate Headquarters, Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblyman Chris Tague, Congressman Pat Ryan, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Charles Schumer, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

Meeting History

10/13/26 Public Safety MOVED FOR ADOPTION

RESULT:	**MOVED FOR ADOPTION [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Charles A. Martinez, Legislator / Budget Officer
SECONDER:	Patrick S. Linger, Chairman
AYES:	Thorington, Martinez, Handel, Davis, Lanuto Jr., Hobart, Linger, Luvera, Lennon

Current Meeting

10/21/26 Greene County Legislature ADOPTED

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Charles A. Martinez, Legislator/Budget Officer
SECONDER:	Handel, Legg, Lennon, Luvera, O'Connell, Thorington, True, Linger
AYES:	Bulich, Davis, Handel, Hobart, Lanuto Jr., Legg, Lennon, Lucas, Luvera, Martinez, O'Connell, Thorington, True, Linger

(10,000)

Ayes 14 Noes 0 Absent 0

APPROVED AS TO FORM
EDWARD I. KAPLAN, ESQ.
GREENE COUNTY ATTORNEY