

# SUFFOLK COUNTY



## COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**THOMAS F. BARRAGA**  
LEGISLATOR, 11<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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May 16, 2013

Hon. Jeffrey Cohen, Acting Secretary to the Commission  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 3  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Dear Mr. Cohen,

I am writing to ask that you table the decision today on Verizon's application proposing to amend its tariff, so the company can abandon copper wire in favor of a wireless alternative, if it demonstrates that "a substantial portion of its facilities in the area is destroyed, rendered unusable or beyond reasonable repair."

After superstorm Sandy, Verizon- the sole provider of landline and DSL service on the barrier island- implemented a wireless voice service in western Fire Island called Voice Link. It gives customers a dial tone without the company having to dig up and repair miles of storm-damaged copper wire. Residents and business owners who had Voice Link installed after Sandy say the connection is unstable and unreliable, and doesn't provide for DSL Internet or fax service.

Probably as you are aware of the state attorney general's office sent a letter to your office yesterday as well asking for you to table the decision and seek public input and review potential impacts to customers of switching to wireless. I respectfully request that you postpone your decision to ensure the safety of the residents, visitors, and business owners of Fire Island.

Very truly yours,

*Tom Barraga*

Thomas F. Barraga  
Suffolk County Legislator