

Connect New York Coalition

June 25, 2015

Public Service Commission
Audrey Zibelman, *Chair*
Patricia L. Acampora
Garry A. Brown
Greg C. Sayre
Diane X. Burman, *Commissioners*

Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza,
Albany, New York 1223-1350
www.dps.ny.gov

By Electronic Transmission Only

Case Number: [14-C-0370](#)

Dear Commission Members,

We write on behalf of the Connect New York Coalition in response to the various documents released yesterday by the Commission in the above captioned matter.

We intend to constructively participate in the upcoming hearings. That being said, we offer the following, including a specific request action by you with respect to the hearings, and a continuation of our efforts to have the Commission take action on our July 1, 2014 Petition.

The location of the hearings announced by the Commission are inadequate and discriminatory. We note that only one third of the hearings take place in the region of the state having at least two thirds of the state's population. Is there a reason no hearings have been scheduled for the Capitol Region or the Hudson Valley?

We respectfully request that two additional hearings be scheduled one for the Hudson Valley and one for Albany.

We also note our continuing frustration at the Commission's failure to take action on the Petition. The Commission is aware of our earlier meetings and correspondence. We took seriously the written commitment "that the issues

raised in their petition will be addressed in the Commission's ongoing Study on the State of Telecommunications [and there would be] a robust dialogue conducted in a transparent process as we work with all stakeholders, including the Coalition." (Zibelman letter of October 28, 2014 attached).

When no such action by the Commission was forthcoming Mayor Miner was told that "Staff will soon be issuing a road map for the study with a series of broad questions and an assessment" (Zibelman letter of April 2, 2015 attached).

There has been no "roadmap". There have been no "broad questions". There has been no "robust dialogue".

The Petition and the issues in the Petition remain unaddressed. Can you please explain why these promises have not been kept?

Issues of misallocation of monies, inadequate basic service requirements, disinvestment in the copper systems, failure to build out promised telecommunications systems, failure to adequately measure the deterioration of service to millions of New Yorkers and others have been ignored by the Commission in spite of promises to take them seriously.

We will participate constructively in the process laid out. But we ask for you to improve the hearing process and to respond clearly and directly to the concerns raised in this letter.

For the Connect NY Coalition

/s/
Mayor Stephanie Miner,

/s/
Susan Lerner

/s/
Robert Master

Please respond to: Slerner@commoncause.org