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Assemblyman Walter T. Mosley Testimony

**Public Hearing
New York State Public Service Commission
NY Institute of Technology
1871 Broadway
New York, N.Y.**

Wednesday, July 15th 2015

I would like to thank the Public Service Commission for allowing me the opportunity to testify today regarding Verizon Telecommunications delayed process and build-out of its high-speed internet service to millions of New Yorkers not only in up-state regions but also in New York City's outer boroughs.

My name is Walter Mosley, New York State Assemblyman from the 57th Assembly District. I represent the neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights and parts of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights. I am here today because high speed internet and telephone services are vital utility services for all New Yorkers and there has been a substantial interest and subsequent investment by state government in the sum of \$500 million dollars to expand access to this digital service.

Downloading a high-definition movie takes about seven seconds in Seoul, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Zurich, Bucharest, and Paris, and people pay as little as \$30 a month for that connection. In Los Angeles, New York and Washington, downloading the same movie takes 1.4 minutes for people with the fastest Internet available, and they pay \$300 a month for the privilege, according to a report published by the New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute.

The reason the United States lags behind many countries in both speed and affordability, according to the report, has nothing to do with technology. Instead, it is an economic policy problem — the lack of competition in the broadband industry.

Three-quarters of American homes have no competitive choice for the essential infrastructure for 21st-century economics and democracy. This puts our country at a comparative economic disadvantage when it comes to information and technology accessibility. Internet speed is not a luxury; to the contrary, it is a vital aspect of our economy and to ignore it would be tantamount to ignoring our roads and bridges which help transport our goods and services across America.

More competition, better technologies and increased quality of service on wire-line networks help to drive down prices, this is Economics 101. The failure of Verizon Telecommunication's ability to meet its requirements of expanding access to its Fios internet service is a hindrance not only to service but an impact on economic growth for up-state communities as well as the outer boroughs of New York City.

When companies look for environments to set up their business an increasing important aspect of that search is access to fast reliable internet access. Increasing access to internet is increasing access to online commerce, the ability for hospitals to access and transfer vital medical records, the ability for working families to attend online classes at night and thus achieve college and graduate levels educations and be economically competitive.

Going forward, it is the duty of the Public Service Commission, and more over government, to make sure our state can maintain economically competitive markets in this 21st century. I hope the findings of these public hearings help to move us forward to that goal.

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to testify.