



May 4, 2011

Mr. Bill Kula  
Director, Media Relations, Verizon

Dear Mr. Kula:

My name is Rick Karr. I'm a correspondent for *Need to Know*, a weekly newsmagazine that appears on PBS stations nationwide. I'm preparing a story for our broadcast that examines the difference between the quality and price of broadband service here in the U.S. and the options that are available overseas. My reporting was funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation and done in collaboration with the technology web site Engadget.com, which will post a version of the story.

As part of my reporting, I traveled to London, where I spoke with representatives of British Telecom and other broadband providers. They all told me that the unbundling of BT's wires has led to faster broadband speeds, lower prices, and vigorous innovation in the consumer and business broadband markets. The incumbent telecom told me its broadband business is as profitable as ever; its competitors say competition has been a boon to industry and consumers alike.

I also note that Verizon is a member of the UK Competitive Telecommunications Association, which advocates for increased broadband competition in Britain.

I'm writing to ask you to provide me with a statement answering two questions for our broadcast:

- For the U.S. market, does Verizon support or oppose the kind of local loop unbundling that has reduced prices and improved the quality of service in the U.K.?
- If Verizon opposes such policies in the U.S., why?

I'm working under a tight deadline: My story is scheduled to air on Friday, May 13, 2011. That means I'll need a response no later than noon, Eastern Time on Thursday, May 12.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there's any additional information I can provide. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Karr', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rick Karr  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

CC: Kevin Laverty, Bobbi Henson, Cliff Lee