

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 26, 2019

Mr. K. Guru Gowrappan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Verizon Media Group  
13031 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Building 900  
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Dear. Mr. Gowrappan:

We are writing to express our deep concerns about the impact of your recent decision to cut seven percent of your media division. While we understand that you likely made the decision based on finances alone, we want to remind you of your equally important social responsibility.

Reporting the news is more than just a consumer good, it is a critical social good. The American people rely upon the fourth estate to keep them informed with timely, fact-based information. We look to journalists to hold elected officials at every level and powerful people and companies accountable and to uncover truths that might otherwise remain hidden. High-quality journalism has never been more needed – while 45 percent of those surveyed blame “fake news” for their lack of trust in the media, nearly 70 percent say that their trust could be restored. The depleting ranks of high-quality journalists, exacerbated by the move Verizon and other companies have made to cut in this area, does a disservice to civic engagement and citizens across the country.

The stated pillars of your organization are to “empower future leaders, commit to impact, and drive meaningful change.” You also state that, “[i]t’s not just about brands for us. It’s about building a better world too.” Your media division is directly responsible for fulfilling these promises you make to your customers and the American people. By making these cuts, you are working in direct conflict to those assurances.

We hope you share our goals of reinvigorating local and quality journalism. We recognize that loss of ad revenue and an increase in readership on social media platforms have all contributed to a reduction in revenue and traditional models of readership across the spectrum of news organizations. We would welcome the opportunity to engage with you to discuss ways to increase access to high-quality, fact-based news.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We hope you will renew your dedication to your organization’s pillars and your corporate social responsibility. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress