

June 22, 2012

Dear Darden Restaurant manager:

We are here today on behalf of employees of Verizon Communications. We also come to express our solidarity with employees of Darden Restaurants and to share our concerns about the treatment of workers at both of these corporations. We ask that you deliver our message to Darden CEO Clarence Otis. Mr. Otis sits on the Board of Directors of Verizon.

We do not have a dispute with this establishment. We are not here to interfere with this establishment's business, to prevent customers or members of the public from entering this establishment, or to interfere with any other business's attempt to make deliveries to this establishment.

Since last June, 45,000 workers at Verizon Communications—where Mr. Otis has been a Director since 2006—have been fighting for a fair contract that protects good jobs. Verizon made more than \$10 billion in profits last year and gave its CEO, Lowell McAdam, a 200% raise to \$23 million. As a Director at Verizon, Mr. Otis is paid \$230,000 to help direct the business. He approved Mr. McAdam's raise as well as enormous compensation packages for other top executives. However, while the company, its executives, and its Board of Directors are prospering, managers are proposing \$1 billion in cuts that would cost each worker about \$10,000 per year.

At Darden Restaurants across the nation, Verizon workers and their supporters are also bringing attention to the gross inequalities in the restaurant industry, where workers are routinely paid \$2.13 per hour, while Mr. Otis was compensated nearly \$8.5 million last year. We are deeply concerned about reports we have heard that workers at some Darden restaurants are not fully compensated for their work and others have been subjected to racial discrimination.

We believe that all workers deserve fair wages, affordable healthcare, time off when they're sick, secure retirements, and a workplace free from discrimination. As CEO of Darden Restaurants and Director of Verizon Communications, Mr. Otis has influence on the treatment of workers at both companies. We ask that he not sit by while workers at Darden and Verizon are struggling. We call on him to improve working conditions for Darden employees and to help resolve the dispute at Verizon.

Please deliver this message to Mr. Otis. We will continue to educate the public about his role in these disputes. We ask that he respect workers' rights at Darden and Verizon.

Sincerely,