

FOR RELEASE: Immediate, Thursday, March 17, 2011
CONTACT: Adam Tabelski, (716) 731-8740

STATEMENT FROM SENATOR GEORGE MAZIARZ ON VERIZON

So many times this community has looked back and said, "If only...." If only UB was downtown, if only we could build a new Peace Bridge, if only Niagara Falls could get back on track.

I'm saddened that the next generation will look back and say "if only" Verizon had located their multi-billion data center in our region. It could have been a key in redefining ourselves as a location for major data storage and investment.

Today, we see once again why our children are forced to move away in search of jobs. One disgruntled property owner hires one lawyer with a reputation of opposing everything to stall this project until Verizon gets fed up waiting and goes elsewhere. And our broken bureaucracy and snail-like judiciary, which refused to expedite this case despite its huge importance to the region, are complicit in this failure.

I will be looking at ways to legislate around this nonsense so the next one doesn't get away. That could mean mandating significant penalties if lawsuits are deemed without merit, which this suit clearly is.

Everyone has a right to their day in court, but there should be consequences when that right is abused as it was so egregiously in the Rizzo case. Something needs to be done to reform our legal system. Something needs to be done to turn the "if only..." stories into success stories for Western New York.