



**PROJECT 21**  
Black Leadership  
Network

August 5, 2022

Mr. Hans Vestberg  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Verizon  
1095 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Vestberg,

We are writing to you as Project 21, a network of black leaders and black organizations, to protest Verizon's decision to remove One America News from your platform. Verizon has done a tremendous disservice to its subscribers, investors and free speech by this decision. We ask you to correct this error immediately by reinstating OAN.

The termination of Verizon's Fios Network carriage agreement with OAN after a 17-year relationship, thinly veiled as a "typical, business-as-usual carriage negotiation like those that routinely happen between content distributors and content providers," was announced after political pressure was placed on your company by left-wing politicians and allied special interest groups. Allowing a political pressure campaign to decide which news and information programs Americans have access to undermines free speech and sets a precedent that will only encourage further demands. This is particularly dangerous as this pressure appears to only go one way -- anti-conservative and, in this case, anti-black.

Those who demanded that you cancel OAN are also clamoring for the removal of Fox News Channel and Newsmax from your platform. Though you recently renewed your agreement with Newsmax, the pressure to remove OAN appears to have been too great. You have now projected weakness, inviting those further demands.

David Lowery, the former national crisis director for Al Sharpton's National Action Network, who joined Project 21 after learning about it from OAN coverage, said:

"As a modern civil rights leader who grew up in the 1960s, I experienced how balanced media coverage and true journalism brought Americans together as one to improve the American way of life for millions of black Americans. I was so heartened to see OAN feature black guests who shared my conservative beliefs -- something that cannot be found in establishment media outlets."

During 2021, Project 21 members appeared on OAN segments 66 times, Fox News 36 times and Newsmax 676 times. In contrast, Project 21 members appeared on only one segment of CNN and CBS programming, and none on ABC, NBC or MSNBC.

Verizon's Fios Network lost 281,000 residential video subscribers in 2021 after losing 298,000 in 2020, it will only exacerbate this problem by driving conservative blacks away.

By cancelling OAN, you aren't just silencing conservative voices, you are silencing black voices.

Do what's right for black America, for your investors and for the country by reinstating OAN immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

**Horace Cooper**

Chairman  
Project 21

**Stacy Washington**

Communications Director  
Family Vision Media  
On Air Talent, SiriusXM

**Alveda King**

Founder  
speakforlife.org

**Pastor David Lowery, Jr.**

President  
Living and Driving While Black Foundation

**Reverend Dr. Albert Sampson**

Pastor  
Fernwood Community Outreach Church  
President, Metropolitan Council of Black Churches (Chicago)

**James W. Jackson, MDiv**

Lead Pastor  
Fervent Prayer Church

**Eddie Huff**

Executive Director  
Booker T. Washington Inspirational Network

**Charles Butler**

Host  
"The Reality Check with Charles Butler"

**Craig DeLuz**

President  
2ANews Corp.

**Gregory Parker, Ph.D., MPA, ChE**

CEO  
CGT Capital Group, LLC

**Star Parker**

President and Founder  
Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE)

**Michael Austin**

President/Owner  
Knowledge and Decisions Economic Consulting, LLC &  
Kansas Advisor  
U.S. Committee on Civil Rights

**DawnMarie Alexander Boursiquot**

President & CEO  
An UnCommon Voice Coaching & Consulting

**Day Gardner**

President  
National Black Pro-Life Union

**Reverend Steven Louis Craft, MDiv**  
Christian Citizenship Ministries.org

**Christopher R. Arps**  
Host  
NewstalkSTL-St. Louis

**Diante Johnson**  
President  
Black Conservative Foundation

**Patrina Mosley**  
Founder/Principal  
PPM Consulting, LLC

**Joe Mobley**  
Host  
“The Joe Mobley Show”

**Derrick Hollie**  
Founder & President Reaching America

**Donna Jackson**  
Director of Membership Development  
Project 21

**Latice Porter**  
Evangelist  
Apostolic Church of God

**Addul Ali**  
Chairman  
North Carolina GOP Black Conservative  
Voices

**Derryck Green**  
Minister, consultant, and national speaker

**Whitley Yates**  
Director of Diversity & Engagement  
Indiana Republican State Committee

**Tiffanie A. H. Ditlevson MBA,**  
Realtor/Broker

**Sean Joiner**  
President  
Righteous Enterprise Remodeling & Construction

**Martin D. Baker**  
State Director (Missouri)  
The Blexit Foundation

**AK Kamara**  
Owner  
AK Kamara Enterprises

**Melanie Collette, MPA**  
Host  
“MoneyTalk with Melanie”

**Julian Boykin MBA, MS, CISM, PMP**  
CEO  
Acquisition Consulting Experts, LLC.

**Paul H. Jones**  
Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Adviser  
Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mountain Gate Ward)

**Marie Fischer**  
Former 2nd Vice President  
Maryland Federation of Republican Women

**John Aaron Wheeler**  
Public Servant

**A. Sonia Morris JD, MA**  
Author and Education Consultant

**The Honorable Mike Hill**  
Former Member, Florida State Representative

**Bishop Dean L. Nelson**  
President  
Douglas Leadership Institute