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**FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCES
ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

PORTLAND, Maine (July 15, 2009) – FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NYSE: FRP) announced today a number of organizational changes. David Hauser, chairman and chief executive officer of FairPoint Communications, announced that effective immediately he is making several organizational changes in order to position the company to better tackle the integration issues of its systems in northern New England.

“Over the past two weeks I have met with FairPoint’s leadership team to assess our situation,” said Hauser. “From these meetings one thing is very clear to me. We must direct our full attention to tackle the integration of our systems serving northern New England. These changes will help FairPoint more effectively address the systems issues and address them quickly.”

Vicky Weatherwax has been appointed vice president of business solutions, and will report directly to Hauser. She will be responsible for developing a comprehensive plan of action with appropriate milestones to address the systems integration problems. The company’s Project Management Office team will report to Weatherwax. She has more than 20 years of experience in telecommunications, including network design, construction, project management and network cost optimization. She has an MBA from Wake Forest University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology.

Additionally, Executive Vice President Jeff Allen will oversee all northern New England operations. He will lead the operations, engineering, customer sales and service, sales, billing and support teams. Allen will report directly to Hauser. Allen joined FairPoint in 2007 and has more than 20 years of telecommunications experience. He has served in a number of leadership positions with FairPoint and recently led the company’s systems stabilization plan in northern New England. Allen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Prior to joining FairPoint he served as chief executive officer of the data communications provider Intellispace, Inc.

The company also announced that President Peter Nixon will oversee the supply chain function, regulatory compliance, external/government affairs, broadband stimulus package /economic development and Telecom Group operations. Nixon has worked at FairPoint since 1997 and began his career in telecommunications with Chautauqua and Erie Telephone

Corporation. He served in a number of senior leadership positions with FairPoint, including chief operating officer and senior vice president of corporate development.

Hauser also announced the company will hire a chief information officer and will immediately begin a search to fill this position.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FRP. Learn more at www.FairPoint.com.

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