



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXTENDS CEO'S EMPLOYMENT

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (PR NEWSWIRE) – March 6, 2008 – The Board of Directors of FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NYSE: FRP) decided to extend the employment of Eugene B. Johnson as chief executive officer of FairPoint Communications for an additional year. The current employment agreement expires December 31, 2008. The extension of Johnson's employment is subject to the execution of a mutually agreeable employment agreement between Johnson and FairPoint, which is being negotiated.

Johnson has been CEO of FairPoint Communications since January 2002 and previously served as chief development officer. Johnson is the co-founder of FairPoint Communications and also serves as chairman of the Board of Directors.

"I am thrilled the Board of Directors has shown confidence in my abilities as CEO and I'm ready to lead FairPoint into its next chapter as we finalize our acquisition of Verizon's wireline operations in northern New England," said Johnson.

About FairPoint

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to rural and small urban communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates 30 local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, video and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol FRP. Learn more at www.fairpoint.com.

This press release may contain forward-looking statements by FairPoint that are not based on historical fact, including, without limitation, statements containing the words "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates" and similar expressions and statements. Because these forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, there are important factors that could cause actual results, events or developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Such factors include those risks described from time to time in FairPoint's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including, without limitation, the risks described in FairPoint's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K on file with the SEC. These factors should be considered carefully and readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-

looking statements. All information is current as of the date this press release is issued, and FairPoint undertakes no duty to update this information.

FairPoint has filed, and the SEC has declared effective, a registration statement in connection with the proposed Merger. FairPoint urges investors to read this document and other materials filed and to be filed by FairPoint relating to the proposed Merger because they contain and will contain important information. Investors can obtain copies of the registration statement, as well as other filed documents containing information about FairPoint and the proposed Merger, at www.sec.gov, the SEC's website. Investors may also obtain free copies of these documents and FairPoint's other SEC filings at www.fairpoint.com under the Investor Relations section, or by written request to FairPoint Communications, Inc., 521 E. Morehead Street, Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28202, Attention: Investor Relations.

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