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FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS NAMES MICHAEL K. SMITH AS VERMONT STATE PRESIDENT

BURLINGTON, VT (December 21, 2009) – FairPoint Communications has named Vermont native Michael K. Smith as Vermont State President. He will be responsible for regulatory matters, governmental relations, and economic development for Vermont.

Smith brings a long and distinguished career with him from U.S. Navy SEAL to the Vermont House of Representatives to Hardwick Town Manager to Secretary of Administration in Vermont state government. He served as Secretary of Administration on two different occasions; first from 2003-2005, and then 2006-2008. He also served as Secretary of Human Services from 2005-2006, and Deputy State Treasurer from 1995-1999. Before he became Secretary of Administration in 2003, Smith was the chief operating officer of Yankee Captive Management, Inc., in Burlington. He also worked as the general manager of the Public Employer Risk Management Association in Albany, New York, and as the vice president of MMA Consulting Group, Inc., in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the town manager of Hardwick in the early 1980s.

"We are delighted to have Mike join FairPoint in this very important role. His knowledge of state government, and business and community organizations in Vermont will help FairPoint continue to build lasting relationships within Vermont as we continue to improve and expand communication services," says Peter Nixon, president of FairPoint Communications.

Smith is a graduate of the University of Vermont where he received both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree in political science. Born in Rutland, he now lives in Essex with his wife Mary. He has two daughters who attend college.

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. Learn more at www.FairPoint.com.

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