

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Evan Low
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2395 - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Low:

On today's date, by unanimous vote, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors has taken the position to **oppose AB 2395**, which attempts to establish a framework for telecommunication providers to relinquish their traditional landline services.

San Benito County is largely rural with over 90 percent of land use for farming, ranching, forestry, or other public uses. A map of our county is attached; outside of our northern-most cities, much of the County is extremely rural. Modern communications systems (broadband, Voice Over Internet Protocol, and/or wireless) are either non-existent, unreliable, or cost-prohibitive outside our main cities. As a result, traditional landline phone service remains the backbone and only reliable two-way communication mode. Additionally, some individuals, including the elderly, choose to maintain traditional landline services even if they have access to mobile phones.

Even if there are replacement options, the Board of Supervisors is concerned about the quality of the replacement service, its long-term sustainability, and the price at which it would be offered. The County is also concerned by AB 2395's timeline and default provisions. Under the bill, the CPUC has 120 days (four months) to review a legacy carrier's petition for relinquishment, and if the CPUC fails to complete its review within 120 days, the relinquishment is deemed approved.

AB 2395 contains other provisions of serious concern. As such, the Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the residents of the San Benito County, urges you to vote NO on AB 2395.

Sincerely,

Robert Rivas,
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members of the Assembly Utilities & Commerce Committee