North Bay/North Coast
Broadband Consortium

September 20, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 94814

RE: North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium's (NBNCBC) urgent request for a VETO of AB 1665

Dear Governor Brown,

The North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium is one of 16 CPUC-funded regional broadband consortia in the state whose mission is to promote broadband deployment through regional planning. Our consortium includes the counties of Napa, Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma, and is governed by an oversight committee composed of one supervisor from each county. We work with underserved and unserved communities, and find ways to bring demand aggregation together with funding sources and willing providers.

This is no easy task, as the status quo keeps the digital divide locked into place and the large telcos have already largely deployed into any area they deem profitable. The challenges facing new entrants and new deployments are tremendous.

One hope, however, has been the funding available for independent ISPs through our state broadband program, the California Advanced Service Fund. These deployments have not only provided a vital service for communities (broadband) but have also provided necessary competition to the incumbents which have spurred their own deployments to keep pace. All of this results in more and better broadband for more people.

AB 1665 was originally for the purpose of reauthorizing this vital and popular state broadband program, and we worked hard this year to find sponsors and bring this bill forward after two failed attempts. A large coalition came together in support of the Internet For All Now Act and momentum was gained.

Unfortunately, when the incumbents saw that they could not stop this bill, they were able to insert damaging amendments that skewed the original intent of the bill. As a result, if this bill is signed by you, our state broadband program will become a give-away to the large incumbent carriers. **It will become virtually impossible for the independent providers to get funded through the state. And under this bill, 17 counties in northern California alone will be**

ineligible for CASF funding altogether. The loss of competition that will result from this bill will be extremely damaging to California's future.

As Governor you are the final gatekeeper of our collective good. The original momentum behind this bill resulted from our residents needing better connectivity. However, huge amounts of political money caused one elected official after another to cave in to industry pressure.

Please be assured that the telcos did a *full court press* on this bill, meeting regularly with the authors while community representation was largely absent.

These elected officials will be held accountable for their vote come re-election time, and we ask that you send a message that the public good will *not* be subservient to political money by your VETO of AB 1665. Such a veto would also send a message to the residents of California that you are a Governor who values economic opportunity for ALL of California and you will not leave anyone behind. If rural areas are left to stagnant economically, they will prove to be a financial drain on *all* of California. We must not allow that to occur.

We ask that you VETO AB 1665 so broadband competition has at least a fighting chance in California.

Dan Hamburg (TS)

Dan Hamburg
Chair, NBNCBC Oversight Committee
Mendocino County Supervisor

cc (via email): Oversight Committee Members-County Supervisors: Dennis Rodoni, Marin; Diane Dillon, Napa; and Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma; NBNCBC Management Team; and Jason Liles