



**March 3, 2016**

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Kevin de Leon  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker-Elect of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5136  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Jean Fuller  
Senate Minority Leader  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Chad Mayers  
Assembly Minority Leader  
State Capitol, Room 4144  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Luis A. Alejo  
Chairman, Latino Caucus  
State Capitol, Room 2117  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Chairman, California Legislative Black Caucus  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Frank Bigelow  
California Legislative Rural Caucus  
State Capitol, Room 6027  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Please support AB1758 – Internet For All Now Act of 2016**

Dear Speaker Atkins, Senate Pro Tempore de Leon, Speaker-Elect Rendon; Senate Minority Leader Fuller, Assembly Minority Leader Mayers, Latino Caucus Chairman Alejo, Black Caucus Chairman Jones-Sawyer, and Rural Caucus Chairman Bigelow:

The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County strongly supports **AB1758**, the **Internet For All Now Act of 2016**, and respectfully urges your support to renew and improve management of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF). The Alliance works closely with the North-Bay North Coast Broadband consortium to help close the digital divide in our county. Currently, according to the CPUC's own carrier-provided data, Mendocino is 33.9% underserved and unserved for wireline broadband availability. The broadband picture in rural areas is not a rosy one - it is often unavailable, unaffordable, and unreliable. As I currently type this letter, my DSL internet (which I rely on for my work) is completely out of service, and I am going on 17 days of daily problems. I will have to travel to another location to email this to you. Unfortunately, mine is not an unusual situation.

If California is to ever meet the Legislature's statutory goal to achieve 98% broadband deployment (while focusing first on reaching unserved households and then transitioning to higher-speed networks) **AB 1758 is essential and I ask for your support.**

We must continue to invest in California's digital future, and the CASF program is a good way to do so. As a grassroots organization in the county, I know very well the struggles that residents, businesses and organizations face in trying to secure high-speed broadband. Many are still waiting. For this reason, we have to keep moving forward and working to secure a broadband future for ALL of California. Please support AB 1758.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trish Steel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Trish Steel  
Chair, Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County

cc:

The Honorable Mark Stone