

March 3, 2016

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Mike Gatto
Chairman, Assembly Committee
Utilities and Commerce
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Jim Patterson
Vice Chairman, Assembly Committee
Utilities and Commerce
State Capitol, Room 3132
Sacramento, California 95814

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

Dear Chairman Gatto, Vice Chairman Patterson and Members of the Committee:

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,



Trish Steel
Chair, Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County

cc:

Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian
Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Assembly Member Autumn R. Burke
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman
Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Assembly Member David Hadley
Mr. Craig Scholer
Assembly Member Roger Hernández
Assembly Member Jay Obernolte
Assembly Member Bill Quirk
Assembly Member Miguel Santiago
Assembly Member Philip Y. Ting
Assembly Member Das Williams
Assembly Member Mark Stone
Ms. Sue Kateley