

**March 3, 2016**

**VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable Ben Hueso  
Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Energy, Utilities and Communications  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Mike Morrell  
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Energy, Utilities and Communications  
State Capitol, Room 2056  
Sacramento, California 95814

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

Dear Chairman Hueso, Vice Chairman Morrell 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  
Deputy manager for Mendocino in North Bay-North Coast Broadband Consortium

cc:

Senator Anthony Cannella  
Senator Ted Gaines  
Senator Robert M. Hertzberg  
Senator Jerry Hill  
Senator Ricardo Lara  
Mr. Craig Scholer  
Senator Connie M. Leyva  
Senator Mike McGuire  
Senator Fran Pavley  
Senator Lois Wolk  
Assembly Member Mark Stone