

California Assembly Bill 1665 Reaction

"Sadly, in AB 1665 public interests have been subverted to benefit private interests. We know that the broadband provider industry, rooted in a history of monopoly dominance over the telecommunications marketplace, has captured our legislature when a thoughtful proposal for public support to bridge the digital divide is perverted into a thoughtless gift to private interests.

"AB 1665 was conceived to advance Internet for All by engaging local communities across our least connected regions. But after effective lobbying by industry AB 1665 was inverted to disenfranchise local efforts in favor of distant, absentee private interests. State Senator Mike McGuire had the good sense to oppose this move, so we thank him for representing our communities."

Sean McLaughlin, Access Humboldt Executive Director

"Legislation should not control fast-paced technological change. One has to wonder why the authors of this bill would not want all resources brought to bear on solving the digital divide. Despite AB1665, we remain undeterred in helping California's rural communities fight for a future in the digital economy."

Michael Ort, CEO Inyo Networks

"It is truly unfortunate that the incumbent telco and cable lobbyists need to manipulate simple funding legislation such as AB1665 to actually delay and prevent 21st century Internet infrastructure deployment in rural California. Those companies' tactics and proliferation of misinformation are antithetical to what is needed in California for economic development and future small town sustainability."

John Paul, CEO Spiral Internet

"Although most agree broadband is a vital resource for the economic future for rural communities, the legislature is voting to lower the California minimum broadband speeds standards to 6/1 when the US Department of Agriculture is raising it to 25/3. All this bill will do is guarantee rural households can barely watch Netflix,"

Connie Stewart, Executive Director California Center or Rural Policy.

"It is a sad day when the California Legislature takes action to deprive residents, businesses and anchor institutions in rural California the same level and quality of service enjoyed by those of us that live in urban and suburban communities. In this case, the Legislature has rolled back the standards for telecommunications broadband services to rural communities to levels at a one-fourth set by the FCC as national standards."

Tom West, North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium Manager