



Central Coast Broadband Consortium

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1366 - OPPOSE July 8, 2019

Dear Senator Hueso:

As now written, Assembly Bill 1366 will effectively end oversight of residential and commercial telecommunications services – broadband and telephone – by the State of California. This result is not the declared intent of the bill and the consequences have not been fully examined. We urge you to set this bill aside.

The current text of AB 1366 extends a ban on oversight by the California Public Utilities Commission of telephone service provided via Internet protocol technology. When first enacted, this ban made sense and had little practical effect, because "Voice over Internet protocol" (VoIP) service was in its infancy. The child has grown up, though, and VoIP is a fully mature service that is rapidly supplanting traditional, and traditionally regulated, analog telephone service.

There might be good arguments for ending state oversight of telephone service. We do not support that position, but it is an appropriate subject for debate and deliberation by the California Legislature. Such a drastic change in California policy should not be enacted through a back door maneuver, as AB 1366 would do.

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium is a 20-year old, broadly based group of local governments and agencies, economic development, education and health organizations, community groups and private businesses. We are dedicated to improving broadband availability, access and adoption, and we are the CPUC's designated Regional Broadband Consortium representing Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. We respectfully request disapproval of AB 1366.

Sincerely,

Joel Staker
Chair
Central Coast Broadband Consortium