

September 20, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 94814

RE: North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium's (NBNCBC) urgent request for a  
VETO of AB 1665

Dear Governor Brown,

The North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium is one of 16 CPUC-funded regional broadband consortia around the state whose mission is to promote broadband deployment through regional planning. We comprise the counties of Napa, Marin, Mendocino, and Sonoma, and are governed by an oversight committee composed of a supervisor from each county. We work with underserved and unserved communities, and find ways to bring demand aggregation together with funding sources and willing providers. This is no easy task, as currently the status quo keeps the digital divide locked into place, the large telcos have already largely deployed into any area they deem profitably. The challenges facing new entrants and new deployments are tremendous.

One hope however, has been the funding available for independent ISPs through our state broadband program, the California Advanced Service Fund. These deployments have not only provided a vital service for communities (broadband) but have also provided necessary competition to the incumbents which have spurred their own deployments to keep pace. All of this results in more and better broadband for more people.

AB 1665 was to re-authorize this vital and popular state broadband program, and we worked hard this year to find a sponsor and bring this bill forward after 2 failed prior attempts. A large coalition of groups came to support the "Internet For All Now" act and momentum was gained. Unfortunately, when the incumbents saw that they could not stop this bill, they were able to insert one damaging amendment after another, each worse than the last, so that eventually the original intent of the bill was lost and now our state broadband program is a give-away to the large incumbent carriers and makes it virtually impossible for the independent providers to get funded. The loss of competition that will result from this bill will be extremely damaging to California's future.

As Governor you must see the “big picture” and be the final gatekeeper of our collective good. The original momentum that we gained was because our residents need better connectivity - everyone knows that - but the huge amounts of political money inserted into the equation by the incumbents caused one politician after another to cave in to industry pressure. And be assured that the telcos did a *full court press* on this bill - they were meeting regularly with the authors while community representation was absent. Our elected officials will be held accountable for their vote come re-election time, and we ask that you please send a message to these politicians, both republican and democrat, that the public good will *not* be subservient to political money by your VETO of AB 1665. Such a veto would also send a message to the residents of CA that you are a Governor that values economic opportunity of ALL of California and you will not leave anyone behind. If the rural areas are left to stagnant economically then it will damage and be a financial drain on *all* of California.

We ask that you VETO AB 1665 so broadband competition has at least a fighting chance in California.

Dan Hamburg  
Chair, NBNCBC Oversight Committee  
Mendocino County Supervisor

cc (via email): Oversight Committee Members-County Supervisors: Dennis Rodoni, Marin; Diane Dillon, Napa; and Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma; NBNCBC Management Team; and Jason Liles