

SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
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3 May 2016

The Honorable Evan Low
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly bill 2395

Dear Assembly Member Low:

This letter is to express our opposition to Assembly Bill 2395 with respect to telecommunication services.

While deployment and expansion of modern telecommunications networks in Sierra County remains a priority to us, the reality is that such is a dream in most parts of Sierra County.

We have have seen decreased communications services in much of the county as subscribers have been encouraged to move to broadband based telephone services that fail during periodic power outages. In emergencies, and with much of Sierra County having no cell services, telephone communications ceases with the removal of copper-based telephone services. Your bill sadly returns many areas of California to a pre payphone era of communications.

With just a population of 3000, it is very rurally based within our 980 square miles. Likely 70% of Sierra County has no cell service of any kind. Even our sheriff's communications system, the backbone of emergency communication radio service in the county, uses copper-based communications loops to service two mountain top remote transmitters.

Many households with lifeline rate service plans choose copper-based lines and many of those users are seniors. In addition, users who are disabled or medically brittle often need dependable copper-based landlines for medical monitoring systems.

We appreciate the opposition to your bill by our assemblyman Brian Dahle. He certainly understands the huge impact this would to have to his rural constituents in his vast district. We would further add that your bill could have equal life and safety impacts to all visitors to our area, many whom are constituents of yours.

We would encourage you to rethink this public policy that is a life safety issue to many Californians.

Sincerely,

**SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

By:

LEE ADAMS
Chair

cc: Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties
Honorable Brian Dahle, Assemblyman – First District
Honorable Ted Gaines, Senator – First District
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