



Larry Johnston ~ District One Fred Stump ~ District Two Tim Alpers ~ District Three
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MONO

P.O. BOX 715, BRIDGEPORT, CALIFORNIA 93517

(760) 932-5538 • FAX (760) 932-5531

Bob Musil, Clerk of the Board

May 10, 2016

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

RE: Assembly Bill 2395 - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Low:

On behalf of Mono County, I write to respectfully inform you of our opposition to your Assembly Bill 2395, which attempts to establish a framework for telecommunication providers to relinquish their traditional landline services.

The deployment and expansion of modern telecommunication networks in Mono County remains a priority for the county to maintain our economic competitiveness and provide our schools, libraries, businesses and constituents with 21st Century connectivity. While on the surface AB 2395 offers consumers the promise of an alternative telecommunications service, often available through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or Internet Protocol (IP) and/or wireless services, these services primarily rely on technologies that are not yet deployed in our communities.

AB 2395 will allow legacy carriers to relinquish their decades-old obligations that guarantee basic two-way telephone service via a landline. Mono County is extremely concerned with the approach the bill takes, particularly as it relates to consumer protections and the ability for carriers to abandon their current subscribers without a guarantee that consumers will have access to these alternative services. Additionally, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is responsible for enforcement and should the Commission fail to meet the very strict timeframes under the AB 2395 regulatory requirements, the relinquishment will be deemed automatically approved.

AB 2395 contains various other provisions of serious concern, including unknown economic and public safety impacts that may leave our rural and remote communities without any reliable communications services. Mono County is concerned that the bill does not ensure alternatives are affordable, provide good quality-of-service, and remain viable over the long-term.

For these reasons and others, Mono County has adopted an oppose position to your AB 2395. If you should have any questions concerning our position, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at fstump@mono.ca.gov or 760-924-1783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Stump", written over a horizontal line.

Fred Stump, Chairman
Mono County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee