



Central Coast Broadband Consortium

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1665 - OPPOSE

September 20, 2017

Dear Governor Brown,

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium is strongly opposed to Assembly Bill 1665. It is a major step backward for broadband development and equitable access, for all of California, but particularly for rural areas of our state:

- As the gap between urban and rural broadband performance widens, and as the U.S. Department of Agriculture raises the minimum acceptable service levels for rural communities to 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds, AB 1665 *lowers* California's minimum standard to 6 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up.
- The \$300 million that AB 1665 puts into the California Advanced Services Fund would be effectively reserved for AT&T and Frontier Communications, to subsidize minimal upgrades that don't meet California's current broadband standard, that they would otherwise be obligated to finance themselves.
- AB 1665 would end investment in independent broadband infrastructure that provides 21st century service levels to all Californians. Past successes include the Connected Central Coast project, which physically and virtually links the Salinas Valley to Silicon Valley, and Digital 395, which provides the eastern Sierra with the same access to the digital economy that Los Angeles and San Francisco take for granted.

The California Advanced Services Fund is an essential tool that allows rural communities to achieve digital parity with cities and suburbs, and the Central Coast Broadband Consortium looks forward to working with our legislators on an effective and fair bill. AB 1665 would instead codify California's digital divide by establishing standards and investment practices that lock rural areas into 1990s technology for generations to come.

We respectfully ask you to veto AB 1665.

Sincerely,

Joel Staker
Chair
Central Coast Broadband Consortium