



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-219

MEETING: May 3, 2016
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
RE: Oppose AB 2395

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter Opposing Assembly Bill (AB) 2395 that Effects Traditional Landline Telephone Communications; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter. AB 2395 will establish a framework for telecommunication providers to relinquish their traditional landline services. Without traditional landline services many of our constituents may not have communication services due to sporadic broadband, WIFI, and DSL services. This is especially important with our occasional power outages, when often times the only line of communication is landline services.

Please see the attached letter and bill synopsis for additional information.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has opposed legislation that are potentially harmful to the residents of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the letter opposing AB 2395. Individual Board members may write their own letters of opposition which may not carry the same weight as a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

AB 2395 Oppose - 2016 (DOC)
AB 2395 Bill Language (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO

4/27/2016

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RESULT: **ADOPTED [4 TO 0]**
MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Merlin Jones, Marshall Long, Kevin Cann
RECUSED: John Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER

May 3, 2016



MARY HODSON
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

P. O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3222
(800) 736-1252

Fax (209) 966-5147

www.mariposacounty.org/board

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

RE: Assembly Bill 2395 – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Low:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors opposes Assembly Bill (AB) 2395 which will establish a framework for telecommunication providers to relinquish their traditional landline services.

Mariposa County is a small rural county that begins in the Sierra foothills and extends into the mountains and forests. Because of this terrain the majority of the citizens rely on traditional landline services for communication needs due to the sporadic availability of wireless and broadband services. The County has experienced devastating wildfires and other natural disasters in the recent past that have caused disruptions in utility services, and without landline services many of our citizens would be without communication services. While AB 2395 offers consumers the promise of an alternative telecommunications service, these services primarily rely on technologies not yet deployed in our county.

AB 2395 will allow legacy carriers to relinquish their decade-old obligation to provide basic telephone service via a landline. Mariposa County is very concerned that this bill will give the ability to carriers to abandon their current subscribers without a guarantee that consumers will have access to alternative services. Additionally, the California Public Utilities Commission is responsible for enforcement and if they fail to meet the very strict timeframes under the AB 2395 regulatory requirements, the relinquishment will be automatically approved.

Mariposa County is concerned that AB 2395 does not ensure alternatives are affordable, provide good quality-of-service, and remain viable over the long-term. This bill contains various other provisions including unknown economic and public safety impacts that may leave our county without any reliable communications services. Mariposa County further propose that if this bill is passed but before landline services