

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@co.mendocino.ca.us
Web: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos

April 5, 2016

Assemblymember Mike Gatto
Chair of the Utilities and Commerce Committee
State Capitol • Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Gatto,

I am writing to let you know that Mendocino County, which represents approximately 87,000 people, has taken a position to **oppose AB 2395 (Low)** because we want to stop AT&T from taking away from our communities the right to choose traditional home phone service many of value enough to keep.

Many of us choose to keep our copper-based home phones even if we own mobile phones:

- 1) Don't take away the most reliable way to reach 911 in an emergency.**
 - a. 911 dispatch centers automatically know our location when we call from home.
 - b. Our home phone lines will keep working for weeks if there is a power outage.
 - c. Wireless signals can be unreliable when we need our phones the most.

- 2) Don't let vulnerable people be left without reliable phone service.**
 - a. A third of low-income LifeLine households choose copper-based home phones.
 - b. Many seniors without broadband depend on old-fashioned home phones.
 - c. People who are disabled or medically fragile often need landlines for med-alerts.

- 3) Don't let AT&T force people to use more expensive mobile and digital services.**
 - a. Many people choose landlines because the bills are more affordable.
 - b. Others choose landlines because of reliability, especially in rural communities.
 - c. It can make it harder to reach small businesses that have no landlines.

People in my community care about reaching 911 in an emergency, the right to choose their own phone service that is reliable and affordable, and to have consumer protections enforced by the California Public Utilities Commission. AB 2395 would take away these basic rights.

On behalf of my community I am asking you to Vote No on AB 2395.

Sincerely,

Dan Gjerde, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

CARRE BROWN
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN
Second District

TOM WOODHOUSE
Third District

DAN GJERDE
Fourth District

DAN HAMBURG
Fifth District