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**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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April 11, 2012

California State Senate  
Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications  
State Capitol, Room 5046  
Sacramento, California 95814  
*Via Email*

RE: April 17, 2012, Committee Hearing: Letter of Opposition - SB 1161 (Padilla)  
*Communications: Voice Over Internet Protocol and Internet Protocol Enabled Communications Service*

Honorable Chair Padilla and Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee:

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors we are writing to express our strong opposition to SB 1161, *Communications: Voice Over Internet Protocol and Internet Protocol Enabled Communications Service*. The bill, as written, would prohibit regulatory oversight of most broadband technology by the California Public Utilities Commission, thereby jeopardizing meaningful regulation of a service that millions of Californians rely on every day.

The Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC) was formed specifically to bring broadband to the unserved and underserved areas of Mendocino County because the large telecommunications vendors refuse to do so. The Alliance depends upon the regulatory power of the CPUC to solve this problem. If regulatory power is stripped from the CPUC, most of the unserved and underserved areas of Mendocino County will likely remain so.

The unintended consequences of this bill could cripple years of work by the Alliance and countless hours of volunteerism in working to bring affordable broadband access to *all* constituents throughout rural Mendocino County.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the far-reaching implications of this bill to rural counties throughout California, and urge your opposition of SB 1161. Questions regarding this communication may be directed to the Mendocino County Executive Office at 707-463-4441.

Sincerely,

  
John McCowen, Chair

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Noreen Evans, Senator  
The Honorable Wesley Chesbro, Assemblymember  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County (BAMC)

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