



**URBAN COUNTIES CAUCUS**  
1100 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 327-7531



**RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA**  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 447-4806

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April 8, 2015

Honorable Robert Hertzberg  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4038  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: SB 272 – CONCERNS**  
**Set for hearing in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on April 15, 2015**

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

The Urban Counties Caucus (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), writes with a number of concerns with your Senate Bill 272, which would require local agencies to create a catalog of enterprise systems. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Governance and Finance Committee on April 15, 2015.

Recent amendments to the bill have narrowed the focus and SB 272 requires local agencies to create a catalog of enterprise systems that shall be made publicly available upon request in the office of the clerk of the agency's legislative body and be posted on the local agency's Internet Website. The catalogue must disclose the current system vendor, a brief statement of the system's purpose, and a general description of categories, modules, or layers of data.

There are several concerns that UCC and RCRC have with the current version of SB 272, including the following:

- Lack of definitions. The bill currently does not define some of the terminology used in the bill specific to the various IT systems including modules and layers of data.
- Timelines. There is no specific timeline for compliance mentioned in the bill and no mention of what this information will be used for in the future.
- New Mandate. Since the passage of Proposition 42, local agencies cannot receive reimbursement for the costs to comply with the California Public Records Act. Therefore, the new requirements in SB 272 would be unfunded and could be costly to counties. This is especially true in counties who may have multiple systems in the many programs and services we provide, often at the behest of the State of California. To provide a catalogue of all these systems could be time consuming and it is unclear what benefit this information would provide to the general public.

- Security Concerns. County IT experts have raised a concern with asking for the name of the vendor and the product version. Many of our modern county software applications are connected to the Internet to provide on-line services to residents and therefore could be vulnerable to malicious hacking and it is unclear what the public benefit would be in providing the name of the vendor and the product version.

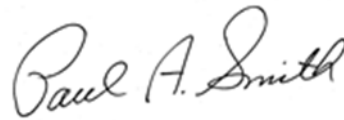
We understand that SB 272 is the first step in a larger discussion of open data, but would submit that a one-size-fits-all does not often work in local government, especially related to the various IT systems and processes in place at the county level.

For the above reasons, the UCC and RCRC have concerns with SB 272, and we look forward to continue working with your staff and other stakeholders to resolve these outstanding issues. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jolena Voorhis at (916) 327-7531 or Paul A. Smith at (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



Jolena L. Voorhis  
Executive Director  
Urban Counties Caucus



Paul A. Smith  
Senior Legislative Representative  
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: Each Member and Consultant, Senate Governance and Finance Committee