



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1959 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to express our support for your Assembly Bill 1959, which would extend the State's universal service and telecommunications programs that help support rural Californians' access to affordable advanced communication services.

RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties. In many cases, the deployment of telecommunications is not a specific county function; however, in rural communities this deployment is crucial to the health and vitality of rural county residents.

AB 1959 would extend the sunset date for both the California High-Cost Fund-A (CHCF-A) and the California High-Cost Fund-B (CHCF-B) in order to continue to provide affordable basic telephone service to rural California. Both the CHCF-A and the CHCF-B were established to subsidize both small independent telephone companies and large telephone corporations to provide service in the rural and smaller metropolitan communities. These subsidies, paid for by surcharges on telephone bills, promote the goal of universal service by providing reasonable rates for basic telephone service in many rural and hard-to-reach areas of the State. The authorization for the collection of fees and management of the CHCF programs expires on January 1, 2019. AB 1959 would extend the authorization for this important program through January 1, 2023.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | FAX: 916.448.3154

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For the above reasons, RCRC supports your AB 1959. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding RCRC's position, please do not hesitate to contact me at trhine@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



TRACY RHINE
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Richard Pan, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Canella, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Tom Berryhill, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Andy Vidak, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Ted Gaines, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Jean Fuller, Member of the State Senate
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable James Gallagher, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Patterson, Member of the State Assembly
The Honorable Vince Fong, Member of the State Assembly
Members of the Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee
Consultant, Assembly Communications & Conveyance Committee