



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

June 19, 2017

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 2425: Public Lands Telecommunications Act - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Huffman:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I write to express our support for your H.R. 2425 - "Public Lands Telecommunications Act," which would establish and improve broadband and telecommunications deployment on and near public lands.

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. The deployment and expansion of broadband networks in rural communities throughout California is a high priority for our member counties. RCRC has an established record of working with a variety of stakeholders, including California regulatory agencies and the private sector, to achieve greater broadband deployment.

RCRC has been engaged in efforts to secure funding and resources that help in the development of broadband infrastructure throughout California's rural, unserved, and underserved communities. Access to broadband is critical for all communities, especially rural communities that often experience chronic high-unemployment, lower household incomes, limited economic resources and failing or inadequate infrastructure. The deployment and expansion cost of broadband sites in rural communities in California are disproportionately higher than their urban counterparts. The high cost of deploying broadband in these areas is due to a number of factors, including low population levels, lack of competition, and large geographic boundaries between the service provider and customer. As such, it is imperative rural communities continue to receive financial assistance to deploy broadband infrastructure.

H.R. 2425 would provide fee retention authority for rights-of-way and other telecommunications infrastructure use authorizations to ensure funds are reinvested to further broadband and telecommunications deployment. In addition, it would provide

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

The Honorable Jared Huffman
H.R. 2425
June 19, 2017
Page 2

cooperative agreement authority to federal land management agencies – the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish & wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service - to breakdown funding silos and encourage new federal partnerships. H.R. 2425 would allow for a much-needed expansion of broadband and telecommunication infrastructures in rural communities throughout California.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your H.R. 2425. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or trhine@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



TRACY RHINE
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation & Forestry