

**CASSANDRA JAMES**  
District 1, (707) 553-5363  
**MONICA BROWN**  
District 2, Vice-Chair, (707) 784-3031  
**WANDA WILLIAMS**  
District 3, Pro-Tem, (707) 784-6136  
**JOHN M. VASQUEZ**  
District 4, (707) 784-6129  
**MITCH MASHBURN**  
District 5, Chair, (707) 784-6030

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**BILL EMLIN**  
County Administrator  
(707) 784-6100

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500  
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342  
Fax (707) 784-6665

[www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)

**April 1, 2025**

The Honorable Tina McKinnor  
Member, California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5520  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: OPPOSE – AB 470 (McKinnor), Telecommunications, Carrier of Last Resort**

Dear Assembly Member McKinnor:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, we regretfully oppose your Assembly Bill 470, which would allow a Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) provider to abandon essential responsibilities and phase out reliable and affordable access to basic telephone service for all Californians.

AB 470 automatically relieves any provider of its COLR obligations when it sends a notice to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) when it self-determines that it currently has no customers or population in a particular area, and it is "well-served" by alternative voice services. This bill establishes a process wholly outside of any oversight framework, gifting for-profit monopolies with financial incentives to make self-interested findings and be the sole arbiters to the truth and accuracy of that information.

Moreover, the customer challenge process outlined in AB 470 is also outside of any neutral venue, like the CPUC. Given the COLR's notice to the CPUC is automatically deemed approved, any successful customer challenge is a farce. AB 470 limits successful customer challenges to two years of continued service and makes no guarantees that any service be available to the customer following that time period given the lack of COLR protections.

The CPUC's core function is to balance procedures and safeguards to protect consumers as well as ensure the provision of safe, reliable utilities and infrastructure at reasonable rates. AB 470 puts the industry's interests ahead of the needs of a diverse state. COLR rules remain essential and must continue to prioritize consumer protections and universal access while facilitating the transition to modern networks.

We support the evolution to more advanced technologies that provide reliability, redundancy, and ubiquitous access to connectivity, for both internet and voice service. However, AB 470 does not provide a true transition process for communities to receive these modern telecommunications offerings and instead is a process for companies to phase out essential services at the cost of public safety and consumer safeguards. For these reasons, we oppose AB 470.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn".

Mitch Mashburn, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Tina McKinnor  
AB 470 / Solano County Board of Supervisors

**CC:**

Members of the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee  
Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, Rural County Representatives of California  
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, California State Senator  
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember  
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Paragon Government Relations  
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.