



April 14, 2015

The Honorable Jim Wood
Assembly Member, Assembly District 2
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

I am writing on behalf of the Contra Costa Economic Partnership to express our strong support for AB 1262 (Wood), Telecommunications: Universal Service: California Advance Services Fund (CASF), to transfer \$5 million to the Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account.

The Contra Costa Economic Partnership (Partnership) is a coalition of business, education and public sector leaders dedicated to promoting economic vitality and an excellent quality of life in the East Bay region. The Partnership works collaboratively to support and expand existing businesses, and to attract high-wage, high-skill jobs and emerging technology companies to the region. The Partnership proudly serves as the fiscal agent of the East Bay Broadband Consortium (EBBC), a regional initiative covering Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties focused on improving Broadband (high-speed Internet) deployment, access and adoption in the East Bay. EBBC has 41 formal organizational and institutional members and has been endorsed by 25 leadership organization.

For the past three years, rural and urban regional consortia have been working to promote ubiquitous broadband deployment and to advance broadband adoption in unserved and underserved areas throughout the state. AB 1262 would allow consortia to continue working with telecommunications providers and key community stakeholders to promote CASF for years to come.

The Partnership strongly believes AB 1262 is essential to achieving the state's broadband goal of reaching 98% broadband deployment and 80% adoption for California by 2015, goals acknowledged by the California Broadband Council (CBC); California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC); and California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF).

The Partnership sincerely thanks you, Assembly Member Wood, for your leadership and for introducing this important legislation. We applaud your commitment to help close the digital divide in California.

Warmest regards,

Kristin Connelly
Executive Director