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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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May 4, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 649 (Hueso) – Wireless Telecommunication Facilities - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 649. The Board of Supervisor's adopted a 2017 Legislative Platform that opposes the preemption of local control, including the consideration of health effects, in Federal and State telecommunications legislation. The 2017 Legislative Platform does support the repeal of all current limitations imposed on local jurisdiction to regulate the placement, construction and modification of wireless facilities, including small cell systems.

SB 649 would eliminate discretionary review for the installation of small cells in significant portions of communities and everywhere within the public-right-of-way. This broad language would appear to limit county's discretion and the ability to consider public input and aesthetics impacts of small cells installed within the public right-of-way in all zones (including residential neighborhoods) or anywhere inside or outside of the public right-of-way in mixed use residential/commercial zones. Instead counties would only be able to approve small cells located in these areas through an "administrative permit." The bill would also, for the first time, prohibit cities and counties from precluding the leasing of their so-called "vertical infrastructure", including streetlights and stoplights, for the installation of wireless telecommunications facilities. Moreover, the bill would impose a cap developed for utility poles on the rents that cities or counties could charge for the use of their publicly-owned non-utility pole vertical infrastructure. All of these provisions diminish Santa Barbara County's ability review and permit telecommunications facilities based on local standards.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Ben Hueso, Author
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mark McKenzie, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 13th Senate District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors