

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 6, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 821 (Jackson) - Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on SB 821 (Jackson), which would authorize the County to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility, for the sole purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system.

Santa Barbara County has suffered devastating losses that resulted in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire. The Thomas Fire burned approximately 281,893 acres becoming one of the largest wildfires in modern California history before it was fully contained on January 12, 2018. The Thomas Fire destroyed at least 1,063 structures, while damaging 280 others becoming the seventh-most destructive wildfire in state history. After weeks of wildfires, the Santa Barbara County continued to suffer devastating mudslides, which created tremendous loss resulting in wide spread debris flows, property loss and multiple fatalities.

Due to the recent climate related disasters in the County, it is critical to reinforce the need for a robust emergency notification system. When the Thomas Fire began to burn in the County of Santa Barbara, *less than 15%* of the County's residents had signed up to receive county-generated cell phone and email alerts.

Accurate contact information is vital in helping to notify people of immediate danger and key to improving outcomes during disasters.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on SB 821 (Jackson).

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,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly 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