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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 46 (Jackson) State Government: Emergency Services - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to offer our support for SB 46 (Jackson), which would authorize local governments to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utilities by defining *public utility* to include wireless telephony service, for the sole purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system.

Last session, SB 821 (Jackson) was signed into law and authorized counties to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility, for the purpose of enrolling county residents in a county-operated public emergency warning system. SB 46 (Jackson) would expand these provisions to authorize a local government to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility to include, among others, wireless telephony services. It is critical that the County has the ability to access the contact information of resident accountholders through wireless telephone services since most people today use mobile phones instead of landlines.

In 2018, Santa Barbara County suffered major loss that resulted in property damage, disrupting thousands of lives, businesses and government services due to the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides. Due to the ongoing climate related disasters in California, 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.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support your legislation – SB 46 (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: Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th 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