

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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April 28, 2017

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Eric Rood Administrative Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

DATE OF MEETING: May 9, 2017

SUBJECT: Letter of Support the 'Internet For All Now Act'
(Assembly Bill (AB) 1665 - Garcia).

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Attached Letter

FUNDING: Not applicable.

BACKGROUND:

The California Advanced Series Fund (CASF) was established by the Legislature through SB 1193 (Padilla) in 2008 to create a universal service program to encourage the development of broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The program was further codified and expanded in 2010 through SB 1040. The CASF is funded through a surcharge collected on all telecommunication end-users not to exceed \$315 million until 2020; in an amount not to exceed \$25 million per year, unless the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) determined that collecting a higher amount in any year would not result in an increase in the total amount of all surcharges collected from telephone customers in a year (PUC Section 281). The CPUC was required to develop, implement and administer the program with the goal to approve funding for infrastructure projects that provide broadband access to no less than 98 percent of California households by December 31, 2015. The CPUC established four accounts within CASF, which included:

- A. The Infrastructure Account
- B. The Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account
- C. The Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan Account
- D. The Broadband Public Housing Account

However, as of December 2016, the CASF surcharge rate has been reduced to 0% as all authorized funds have been collected. Out of all of the allocated projects, only two project applications have been approved within Nevada County, with one being later rejected. The first project application to be approved was the Nevada County Connected Middle Mile Project of Nevada County Economic Resource Council for \$1,312,747 (Resolution T-17242). However, the project was later declined funding in both round 1 and round 2 of

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