



Public Advocates Office
California Public Utilities Commission
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April 17, 2019

The Honorable Marc Levine
California State Assembly
State Capitol, 5135
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1699 (Levine) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Levine:

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission. Our mission is to advocate for the lowest possible rates for customers of California's regulated utilities consistent with safe, reliable service levels and the state's environmental goals.

We support AB 1699, as introduced, which would prohibit a telecommunications service provider, including providers of voice, mobile, satellite and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, from throttling or intentionally reducing Internet service speeds for public safety responders during a state of emergency. Throttling of communication services impacts first responders' abilities to respond to a crisis.

While existing law broadly requires a public utility to operate and promote public safety and process communication services without discrimination or delay, AB 1699 serves to emphasize that throttling customer communications traffic during a declared state or federal emergency is strictly prohibited.

We look forward to working with you on this legislation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me at (415) 703-2381 or at elizabeth.echols@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Echols". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth Echols
Director