



Public Advocates Office
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
Tel: 415-703-1584
www.publicadvocates.cpuc.ca.gov

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Jim Wood
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 183 (Wood) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). 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 183, as introduced, which would require the CPUC to annually report to the Legislature on telecommunications service providers' efforts to restore service after a fire or a natural disaster when the Governor has declared a state or local emergency.

Communication service outages impact public safety. Unfortunately, the increasing number of wildfires and other natural disasters have resulted in unprecedented damage to properties and utility infrastructure across all industry areas. AB 183 would help state officials share important information on how telecommunications service providers are restoring service following a natural disaster to ensure that Californians continue to have access to essential communication services.

The Public Advocates Office looks 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,

Elizabeth Echols
Director