

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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July 12, 2017

The Honorable Ben Hueso  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 649 – CONCEPTUALLY OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Hueso:

On behalf of the County of El Dorado, I write to respectfully inform you of our conceptual opposition to your Senate Bill 649, which would allow wireless providers unfettered access to public property for placement of "small cell" structures without regard to the aesthetic and environmental impacts of these facilities. As currently written, under SB 649, these not-so-small "small cell" structures must be allowed on public property in *any* zone in a city or county.

The County of El Dorado is a rural northern California county located within the six-county Sacramento Region. Many of our residents, especially in the more rural areas of our County, do not have access to regular and/or reliable broadband service. Our County is firmly committed to exploring and securing partnerships and opportunities that will support our efforts to expand the infrastructure necessary to provide broadband access to all of our businesses and residents.

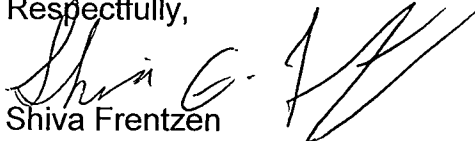
While specific provisions contained within SB 649 may not only impede our progress in that regard, our greatest concern is the elimination of the County's discretionary review of the placement of additional cell structures on County lands, including street lights, utility poles, traffic signals, public buildings or any other location telecommunications companies may deem reasonable.

As currently proposed, SB 649 would give telecommunications companies unrestricted access to our public lands, leaving no ability for local residents to voice their concern or for local government to negotiate leases for the placement of equipment. We must be able to continue to safeguard our environment and protect the aesthetics of our small communities.

The wireless industry continues to push legislation every year to further remove local government's discretion over wireless structures. A better approach would be one that encourages coordination and up-front planning to ensure that wireless technology can be deployed as quickly as possible but with consideration for aesthetics, public safety, the environment, and local voice. SB 649 does not create jobs, but instead erodes local control of community aesthetics and devalues taxpayer-invested public property.

Unless the bill is amended to, at a minimum, retain the current level of public input and local jurisdiction control, the County of El Dorado cannot support SB 649.

Respectfully,



Shiva Frentzen  
Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of El Dorado

cc: Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance  
The Honorable Ted Gaines, California State Senate  
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Kevin Kiley, California State Assembly  
Rural County Representatives of California  
California State Association of Counties