



FBM
PO Box 833
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July 2, 2024

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FBM is a non-profit 501(c)(3)
organization with an all-
volunteer Board.

The Honorable Tina McKinnor
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5520
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Assembly Bill 2797 Telephone corporations: carriers of last resort:
tariffs. As Amended 6/10/2024: **OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member McKinnor,

The Friends of Banner Mountain (FBM) is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to protect Banner Mountain and its natural and cultural resources for the benefit of residents, visitors, and future generations. Banner Mountain is a rural unincorporated area of Nevada County and is home to approximately 3000 residents. We are writing to express our opposition to your Assembly Bill 2797, which would allow AT&T to abandon its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) responsibilities.

Many households on Banner Mountain currently lack viable alternatives to traditional landline service. Cell phone coverage is poor on much of Banner Mountain and removing AT&T's COLR obligation would leave residents without a dependable means of communication.

Access to 911 services is critical for our public safety. Every year Banner Mountain loses power during snowstorms and other emergencies, sometimes for weeks at a time. Wildfires are also a constant threat, and having a reliable landline connection during wildfires and other emergencies is crucial for the safety of our residents.

AB 2797 does NOT provide a transition process for our rural community to receive modern telecommunications. Instead, it establishes a process without any oversight or approval framework and is an outright gift to AT&T. AB 2797 puts the industry's interests ahead of the needs of rural residents in our community. It will interfere with the ability of Banner Mountain residents to reach emergency services, receive evacuation notices, or call a friend or family member for help.

"Celebrating 40 Years as The Voice of Banner Mountain"

<http://www.bannermountain.org>

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) initiated a new proceeding on June 20, 2024 that will create a public, transparent process for reviewing COLR policies and determining what changes are needed to reflect industry progress over the last thirty years. Any legislative action on COLR should be postponed until the CPUC has heard from the public on this topic and until the proceeding is complete.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope that that the Assembly will abandon AB2797, a decision that would serve the best interests of the State's rural residents, like those of Banner Mountain, rather than the interests of AT&T.

Sincerely,

Edward Sylvester, President
Friends of Banner Mountain