

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## SUPERVISORS

Phillip Peters ..... District 1  
Chris Parlier ..... District 2  
Jeff Flores ..... District 3  
David Couch ..... District 4  
Leticia Perez ..... District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Kern County Administrative Center  
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
Telephone (661) 868-3585  
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Tasha Boerner  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance  
1020 N Street, Room 169  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 470 (McKinnor), Carrier of Last Resort obligations – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Boerner,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to AB 470 (McKinnor), which would allow Carriers of Last Resort (COLRs) to abandon their critical responsibility of ensuring all Californians—particularly those in rural and underserved areas—maintain reliable and affordable access to basic telephone service.

AB 470 grants telephone corporations unchecked authority to relinquish their COLR obligations simply by notifying the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) that they believe a given area is “well-served” by alternative voice services. This self-determined process lacks independent oversight, creating financial incentives for corporations to withdraw from areas without sufficient consumer protections or verification.

Additionally, the so-called customer challenge process outlined in AB 470 is inherently flawed, as it occurs outside of a neutral regulatory venue like the CPUC. Even if a customer successfully demonstrates that no alternative service is available, the bill only guarantees two additional years of service, after which they may be left without any provider. This jeopardizes public safety, particularly for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and residents in remote communities who rely on landline services for emergency communications. Recent catastrophic wildfires in Kern County and across California have underscored the critical need for reliable telephone service, particularly in emergencies when cell networks may be down or inaccessible.

The CPUC’s role is to ensure that all Californians have access to safe, reliable, and affordable utilities. AB 470 undermines this mission by prioritizing corporate interests over consumer protections. While we support the transition to modern telecommunications infrastructure, such a shift must be carefully managed to prevent service gaps—not used as a mechanism for companies to eliminate essential services with no real accountability.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose AB 470 and urge the Legislature to reject this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Leticia Perez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leticia Perez, Chair  
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Communications and Conveyance  
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation  
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange