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Clerk/Board of Supervisors

Yuba County Board of Supervisors

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BOARD MEMBER

Dear Board:

I am very alarmed by AT&T's applications to the California Public Utilities Commission (#s 23-03-002 and 23-03-003) which would result in loss of copper land line service throughout the state. According to the CPUC, the FCC has apparently decided to allow this and is leaving it up to individual states to direct the implementation of the very dangerous abandonment of copper land lines. While Boards of Supervisors do not have jurisdiction in such decisions, you can, as representatives of your county, advocate strongly for the safety of all residents. This is a matter of safety.

Cell phone service is at best unreliable and in many places is nonexistent no matter how many cell towers are nearby. Fiber optic land lines don't work when the power is out, and companies providing those lines do not offer adequate power backup, neither via system-wide generators nor via individual batteries that last as long as may be needed (not just the feeble two-hour backup batteries offered by AT&T and Xfinity). Without land lines that work during power outages, such as the tried-and-true copper land lines, hundreds of thousands of people would have no phone service and no way to get help in an emergency when the power goes out. Which happens regularly, often for many days. Lives are at stake here.

Please defend the safety and lives of those you represent by urging the CPUC to deny AT&T's applications #23-03-002 and 23-03-003, If the FCC has not made outright denial possible, then the implementation should ensure replacement phone service that is universally available and that will work during even prolonged power outages, such as two-week batteries (with spares) for all customers. Please contact the CPUC and the FCC as soon as possible. Decisions are scheduled for March 2024. You have the responsibility to use your influence as local governing body to defend the safety and lives of the people of your county and across the state.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Miller
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