

July 6, 2017

Hon. Miguel Santiago, Chair  
Standing Committee on Communications and Conveyance  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 6027  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 649 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Santiago:

As a non-profit that helps communities avoid and recover from devastating wildfires, we write to register our support for SB 649 - Wireless telecommunications facilities (An act to amend Sections 65850.6 and 65964 of the Government Code, relating to telecommunications). SB 649 will strengthen communication infrastructures throughout the state. Because communication is so vital during and after natural disasters, we support removing barriers that prevent improvements in wireless capability.

SB 649 would put a streamlined approval process in place to facilitate the much-needed proliferation of "small cells". This in turn will lead to greater connectivity. Those of us that work in disaster recovery can attest to the importance of reliable communication in the aftermath of a fire, flood, or other event. SB 649 puts in place a consistent set of standards to facilitate the growth of fast, reliable wireless networks. We believe the amendments to SB 649 adequately balance concerns over local control with an efficient development protocol.

United Policyholders ("UP") is a non-profit organization that informs, helps and speaks for insurance consumers in California and across the nation. UP is funded by donations and grants and supported by volunteer labor. UP does not sell insurance or accept funding from insurance companies. At [www.uphelp.org](http://www.uphelp.org), UP offers a variety of resources and tools for making good decisions when buying insurance and resolving claim and coverage disputes.

UP has been working with public safety agencies and assisting and advocating for California homeowners since the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Firestorm. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> year of service in 2016.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Bach, Esq. Executive Director

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