

December 31, 2017
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Dear Senator Skinner:

I am concerned about internet access. Like roads, internet is a public good with huge economies of scale and societal advantages to access for most people and from most places. It is ideally suited to municipal control. This type of access has been very successful for universities such as Cal and a few examples of small cities. Opposition is mostly from Comcast and Time-Warner - companies skimming huge profits from effective monopolies. The recent change in federal regulation away from a utility designation is a reminder that the democratic nature of the internet could very easily be lost. Various municipalities around California have looked into broadband but SB 1191 from 2008 is a significant obstacle to good policy. It requires an exit strategy and leaves customers vulnerable after a forced sale. Cities should control their own policies.

Please assure me that you will help cities build networks.

I am very proud to be a California resident and a large part of that derives from our history of effective progressive policies.

s Sincerely,
Eric Babson