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February 27, 2024

California Public Utilities Commission
Ms. Alive Busching Reynolds, President
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Ms. Busching Reynolds,

I am the writing on behalf of the constituents of District 4 regarding the application from AT&T to discontinue providing landline (copper wire / POTS) service in California. We are concerned that in the event of a disaster, portions of my District could be cut off from communication with local emergency services. During the 2018 Woolsey Fire, the area of Bell Canyon only had their landlines working: Internet, VOIP, and cell service went down. As you know, on February 22, 2024, AT&T experienced a complete shutdown of their cellular service which emphasizes the need to keep land line services for public safety.

Landlines are known for their reliability, especially during emergencies or natural disasters. Unlike mobile networks, landlines are less prone to disruptions caused by network congestion or power outages. Although the hard-wired service can experience an issue, the duration and frequency of such outages are usually lower compared to mobile networks.

Mobile networks may not provide coverage in certain areas, particularly in remote or rural regions such as Bell Canyon in my District. Landlines, on the other hand, have wider coverage and can often be relied upon in areas where mobile signals are weak or non-existent.

Landlines are directly connected to emergency services, making it easier for them to trace the resident's location in case of an emergency call. This can be crucial when you are unable to provide your exact location or if you are in a situation where every second counts.

In closing, Landlines can still function during power outages as they are powered by the telephone line itself. On the other hand, mobile phones require battery power and may not be usable if the battery is drained and there is no way to recharge it.

I urge you to reject AT&T's application as submitted until a comprehensive state-wide assessment can be completed.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Parvin
Supervisor, District 4
County of Ventura