



June 26, 2019

The Honorable Ben Hueso  
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: OPPOSE Unless Amended - AB 1699 (Levine)**

Dear Chairman Hueso:

CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, respectfully opposes AB 1699 (Levine) relating to first response agencies unless it is amended to address the concerns noted below. CTIA and its member companies have had a long-standing partnership with public safety. Whether it is E911, location accuracy, Wireless Emergency Alerts, disaster response, or network resiliency, wireless companies work with public safety to ensure that wireless technologies are used effectively to keep Americans safe. We stand ready to continue this vitally important work with our public safety partners.

Although we appreciate the author's work on the bill, CTIA must continue to oppose AB 1699. The recent amendments seem to extend the mandate in the bill to an *entire* first response agency organization -- including employees who are not involved in providing emergency/first responder services - rather than being restricted to those accounts designated for public safety and first responder use. We provided the author with language focusing the operative sections of the bill to "customers of designated public safety plans". Without such specificity there is no practical way to identify the affected accounts to comply with the legislation. By extending the bill's requirements to entire first response agencies, AB 1699 may also lead to further congestion on carrier networks during times of emergencies and in response to disasters. Accordingly, the bill's requirements should be limited to public safety accounts.

In addition, the "impair or degrade" standard in the bill is ambiguous. Such ambiguity as to what "impair or degrade" means could lead to confusion and accusations that a first responder account is being "impaired or degraded" when in fact it is not. Major mobile wireless providers already provide data prioritization for first responders. Providers need the flexibility to manage their network traffic for optimum performance, especially during disasters.



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Finally, the bill's provisions should not be in the Public Utilities Code. The Office of Emergency Services is the appropriate agency to deal with issues related to emergencies.

In closing, our concern is that AB 1699 may have unintended consequences and could actually undermine, not aid, public safety access during emergencies. As such, CTIA opposes AB 1699 as drafted, but will continue to work with the author and public safety on our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Keegan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gerard Keegan  
Vice President, State Legislative Affairs  
CTIA

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore  
Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
Sarah Smith, Consultant - Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
Kerry Yoshida, Senate Republican Consultant