



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2421 (QUIRK) - SUPPORT – Land Use: Permitting: Wireless Communications

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry,

CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, urges your support for AB 2421. Access to communications services is critical for public safety and keeping consumers connected. AB 2421 enables wireless communication providers to prepare for future wildfire seasons and power outages by expediting the deployment of emergency standby generators.

As you know, unprecedented wildfires are requiring California to develop new strategies, including proactive Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). During a PSPS, rapid deployment of standby generators is important to address the lack of commercial power to cell sites. The uniform permitting process set forth in AB 2421 is in line with recent actions by the Governor and the Legislature.

Specifically, AB 2421 would:

- Expedite the installation of California Air Resources Board (CARB) rated, low-emission, emergency standby generators at already permitted macro cell sites, and
- Provide regulatory certainty by streamlining local administrative review with a 60-day deadline for local agencies to approve or deny applications, with a three-year sunset.

CTIA and its members are committed to providing robust communications services upon which the public, public safety agencies, and the state can rely. We believe this bill will help improve communication reliability during PSPS events and natural disasters.

For these reasons, CTIA strongly supports AB 2421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Keegan".

Gerard Keegan
Vice President
State Legislative Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk
Members of the Assembly Committee on Local Government
Angela Mapp, Chief Consultant
William Weber, Assembly Republican Caucus