September 11, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE - AB 2421 (QUIRK) -- Land Use: Permitting: Wireless Communications

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I respectfully request your signature on AB 2421, which enables wireless communication providers to prepare for future wildfire seasons and power outages by expediting the deployment of emergency standby generators.

Given the importance of uninterrupted communications during Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and other power outages, rapid deployment of standby generators is vital 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 your administration and the legislature.

AB 2421 seeks to protect the communications infrastructure in the state so it will continue to operate. Specifically, it 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 within a 60-day deadline for local agencies to approve or deny applications, with a three-year sunset.

CTIA’s members are committed to providing robust communications services upon which the public, public safety agencies, and the state can rely. This bill will help improve communication reliability during PSPS events and other outage events.

For these reasons, we strongly and respectfully urge your signature on AB 2421.

Sincerely,

Gerard Keegan  
Vice President  
State Legislative Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk  
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor