

Assembly Bill 470 Context: This bill sponsored by AT&T allows telecommunications providers to shed their Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations.

Our top issues remain:

1. Industry-Controlled Coverage Determination:  
The bill allows telephone companies significant authority to determine coverage areas, making it difficult for consumers to challenge inaccurate claims.
2. Lack of Oversight for Alternatives:  
The availability of "alternative telephone systems" such as cable phone or cellular wouldn't be substantiated by an oversight agency, leading to reliability concerns—especially in emergencies.
3. Coverage vs. Reliability:  
The bill emphasizes geographic coverage, but doesn't address service reliability, leaving areas that experience frequent power outages vulnerable during disasters or Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).
4. Misleading Coverage Claims:  
Cases like AT&T's conflicting statements to different government bodies show how providers may manipulate data to their advantage—claiming coverage where there is none to secure approvals.
5. Rural Impact Ignored:  
Testimonies from the Rural Communications Workshop held by RBDA and Sup. Cummings and opposition from groups like RCRC and the California Farm Bureau underline that landlines remain essential, especially for emergency response in rural areas.