



235 Montgomery St., Ste. 760, San Francisco, CA 94104  
tel: 415.392.4520 • fax: 415.392.0485  
sfchamber.com • twitter: @sf\_chamber

April 30, 2020

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

RE: AB 2421 (QUIRK) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

I am writing on behalf of The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in urgent support for Assembly Bill 2421 by Assemblymember Bill Quirk. This bill would enable mobile communications providers to more quickly install backup power generators at existing cell sites in preparation for the coming wildfire seasons and possible power shutoffs by electric utilities. During a wildfire or other public safety emergency, mobile communications are critical for sharing information with the public and saving lives. And now in light of COVID-19 quarantine orders, safeguarding wireless access to health services, distance learning, and one another is increasingly important. This bill will help ensure the continuity of such communications.

As our realities have shifted during the COVID-19 health crisis, nearly everyone is more reliant on their wireless devices than ever to communicate with work, healthcare, schooling, family, and essential needs. It is imperative that this bill pass to ensure our residents have mobile communication access to essential services, and especially access to 911 and government alerts during natural disasters. In times of crisis, we need to do everything we can to allow stable access to the wireless services that provide critical information and resources.

AB 2421 streamlines the local permitting process for back-up power equipment at cell sites, while safeguarding final permitting authority with the local jurisdiction. This legislation would only apply to low-emission fixed emergency standby generators that have been certified by the California Air Resources Board.

California's Legislature should use every tool available to prepare for the growing threat of wildfires, power outages, and other disasters. For these reasons we strongly urge you to support AB 2421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Fong".

Rodney Fong  
President and CEO

Cc: Members, Assembly Local Government Committee; Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee;  
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus