

Happy May Day and Welcome to our Inaugural Rural Caucus Newsletter.

You can also join the conversation on Facebook

Help Bridge the Digital Divide

A group of us is actively working on bringing broadband to our rural communities. We need your help to mobilize our Caucus membership to "better inform" the Public Utilities Commission <u>California Broadband</u> <u>Availability Map</u> by taking the Speed Test, to highlight rural areas in need.

The map is important because it determines whether an area is deemed un- or underserved, based primarily on the less than reliable reporting of the telecommunications companies, which we can challenge with "truth on the ground" testing from our personal mobile devises and desk tops at home.

Our individual test reports go to the PUC staff and should show up on the on-line map within weeks.

The map plays a critical role in the PUC's implementation of the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF).

It's like voting. We can change the map to demonstrate the real needs of our rural communities.

Here is the link to the Speed Test for iPhone or Andriod And for CalSPEED desktop testing

Endorse Prop 68

Shockingly, some 300 communities, concentrated in rural areas, do not have access to clean drinking water.

A Rural Caucus Water Discussion Group, led by Region Chair Mike Smith and joined by members of the Environmental Caucus, is working on how to fix that. Step one is to support Proposition 68 on the June 5 ballot. It is mostly a park expenditure with water added to help with passage. There is not much opposition. The emphasis for the water projects is on disadvantaged communities.

The CDP is asking all of our Delegates, Democratic Clubs and County Central Committees take official action to endorse Prop. 68.

Link to Yes on 68

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