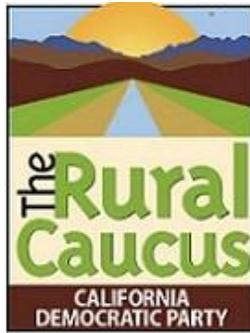


August 13, 2019



Top of the Agenda: Fire Insurance Crisis

Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members, Here is the [agenda](#) for our meeting in San Jose, Friday August 23. Topic A is Fire Insurance.

This is our opportunity to **meet with Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara**, hear from some of our counties on actions they are taking, and insert the Rural Caucus into the conversation as the Legislature formulates new laws (in the next four weeks) on how to mitigate the crisis. These laws do not even have numbers yet. They are just being negotiated.

We will also be voting on proposed **amendments to the Rural Plank** for the 2020 CDP Platform, posted on [our website](#).

Very importantly, we need to **rally against AB 1366 (Gonzalez)** - Voice over Internet Protocol and Internet Protocol enabled communications services, which extends the providers' free reign over what is essentially phone service.

We know that without oversight, the telecoms always give short-shrift to our rural communities.

Our position has changed: Back in May, at our meeting in San Francisco, we voted to support, if amended, to ensure enforceable, reliable and resilient access to 911, minimum standards for the reliability and quality of the State's communications grid - especially in times of emergency - consumer protection and to maintain the State's universal service programs that support communities across the state, such as the deaf, disabled, poor, rural, schools and nonprofit entities – in the Public Utilities Code."

Unfortunately, the bill, as amended is far too weak. We need to now stop it in Appropriations ... or perhaps ultimately with the Governor's veto.

Please call/email today

- Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Anthony Portantino (D 25) La Cañada Flintridge
- Vice Chair Patricia Bates (R 36) Laguna Niguel
- Steven Bradford (D 35) Gardena
- Maria Elena Durazo (D24) Los Angeles
- Jerry Hill (D 13) San Mateo
- Brian Jones (R 38) Santee
- Bob Wieckowski (D 10) Fremont

For iPhone users, you can use Click My Cause to send out our message (with just two clicks) to the appropriate legislators and the Governor. Download the [app](#) and activate alerts from the Rural Caucus.

As you know, our very own Regional Chair Elizabeth Betancourt is running in the Special Election for AD 1. **The Primary is August 27**. She needs our help. As the only Democrat, she has a real shot, **if** we get out the vote for her – writing letters, walking precincts, making phone calls and donating to her campaign.

Elizabeth's campaign e-mail is betancourt4ad1@gmail.com. Cell phone 415-378-6709. [Click here](#) to contribute via Act Blue.

Finally, to put our discussion about fire insurance in context, I highly recommend the [July 31 article](#) by Mark Arax in the *California Sunday Magazine* about Paradise. "Gone: Decades of greed, neglect, corruption, and bad politics led to last year's Paradise fire, the worst in California history. It should never have happened. It will happen again."

I look forward to seeing you in San Jose. Until then,

Joy Sterling | Rural Caucus Chair | 707 484 0013 | joy@ironhorsevineyards.com
www.cdpruralkaucus.org

Iron Horse Vineyards | 9786 Ross Station Road, Sebastopol, CA 95471