

From: [Diane Parro](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Cc: [Don Saylor](#)
Subject: Broadband Opportunity Council
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 3:13:01 PM
Attachments: [Request for Comment -BOC Saylor.doc](#)

Good Afternoon,

It is my pleasure to provide you with the attached letter from Don Saylor, Yolo County Supervisor in response to the Broadband Opportunity Council Notice and Request for Comment. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to weigh in on this issue of critical importance to our rural county. If you have any further questions, we will be more than happy to provide you with any additional information that is helpful.

As Always,
Diane

Diane Parro
Deputy to Supervisor Don Saylor
Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2
diane.parro@yolocounty.org
Davis (530) 757-5581
Woodland (530) 666-8620
Mobile (530) 220-3092



625 Court Street, Room 204

Woodland, CA 95695-1268

(530) 666-8622

District Office:

600 A Street, Suite B

Davis, CA 95616

(530) 757-5557 Office

(530) 666-8193 Fax

June 9, 2015

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 4626
ATTN: Broadband Opportunity Council
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms Mensah and Mr. Strickling,

I commend President Obama on his action to address the very critical issue of access to broadband through the creation of the Broadband Opportunity Council. It is my pleasure to submit these comments which apply to two of the key questions posed in the Notice and Request for Comment published in the April 29, 2015 Federal Register. My comments address the following two specific questions.

23. How can the federal government make broadband technologies more available and relevant for vulnerable populations?

26. What specific provisions should the Executive Branch agencies consider to facilitate broadband deployment and adoption in such rural areas?

Over the past 4 ½ years I have served as a Yolo County Supervisor and have focused on three key priorities: restoration of the safety net for our most vulnerable residents; fostering economic prosperity; and collaboration and sharing of services. The issue of lack of access to broadband in our community is at the heart of all of these priorities.

Yolo is a county of 200,000 residents with one of our nation's richest agricultural histories but not a large revenue base. Our four cities have many businesses based on agriculture and food products and we are the home to UC Davis, the world's leading institution of agricultural research. Our eastern border is just 12 miles from our State Capital and our western border is a mere 50 miles from Silicon Valley. Yet, 8 of our communities are underserved and 6 are unserved based on CPUC definitions. Even within our cities coverage is inconsistent.

Here are our key problems:

- Most of our county based, on geography, lacks basic infrastructure to support broadband
- Providers have not shown any interest in investing in our rural communities
- Economic prosperity depends on our ability to use technology and we lag behind more as time goes on
- Our ability to provide telehealth is inadequate
- The digital divide is exasperating already wide gaps in opportunities we can provide for education and advancement in learning



County of Yolo

DON SAYLOR

Chair, Representing District 2

625 Court Street, Room 204

Woodland, CA 95695-1268

(530) 666-8622

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Davis, CA 95616
(530) 757-5557 Office
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Recommendations:

- Provide grant opportunities for infrastructure projects
- Provide low-cost government loan programs
- Collaborate with local governments to provide incentives for providers

Regards,

Don Saylor

Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2