



August 14, 2019

Senator Mike McGuire
1303 10th Street, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SB 560, Wildfire mitigation plans: deenergizing of electrical lines:
notifications: mobile telephony service providers

Senator McGuire,

The California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) supports amended SB 560, but it does not go far enough protecting the disabled and senior population of our State!

The California In-Home Supportive Services Consumer Alliance (CICA) is a 501 (3)(c) non-profit organization with 34 In-home Supportive Service Advisory Committees, representing 500,000 statewide Consumers of the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) program. Our mission is to share information and provide advice that improves the lives of Consumers under the State's IHSS program.

In SB 560, we agree that the procedures for notifying a customer who may be impacted by the de-energizing of electrical lines by an electrical corporation direct notification to all critical first responders, health care facilities, and operators of telecommunications infrastructure with premises within the footprint of potential de-energization for a given event. The bill would require a mobile telephony services provider to undertake specified steps in preparation for receiving notifications regarding the de-energization of electrical lines (no power, no phones of any kind).

(more)

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Using your words, “There are medically fragile residents who are on oxygen and need electricity to survive. We have to know that first responders who will answer at their time of need get advanced warning when the power is being shut down.”

We agree with this. It is requested that SB 560 be amended as follows under (7):

- a) Public Safety Offices or Office of Emergency Services (OES) involve local disabled and senior individuals, not just organizations in creating plans for Community Wildfire Safety
- b) Local first responders need to identify local disabled and seniors in their communities represented and involve them in preparing for Community Wildfire Safety Programs and other disaster preparedness (this could be involving them in local drills).

The above amendments would stress the need for those your bill aim to protect are involved in decisions being made about them.

We believe it should be stressed that first responders become familiar with local disabled individuals, not just organizations. The needs of individuals with disabilities do not fit in generalized molds that are so often created to meet the needs individuals with a disability have.

Hopefully, our representatives will, as asked of the local first responders, involve the disabled in determining programs regarding their lives. The disabled and senior population need to be present in discussions.

If you need assistance or have questions, you can call me at (707) 441-1974

Respectfully,

Charles Bean

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Executive Director

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