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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER of the
ASSOCIATION of PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS
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April 10, 2014

The Honorable Henry T. Perea
California State Assembly, District 31
State Capitol, Room 3120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1717 (Perea), As Amended 04/02/14
Position: Oppose as Amended
Hearing: 04/21/14; Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce

Dear Assembly Member Perea:

The Northern California Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (NAPCO) is regretfully opposed to your Assembly Bill 1717, as amended. This bill would establish a pre-paid mobile telephone service surcharge. As amended, it is our view that the bill will have a negative impact on the State Emergency Telephone Network Account (SETNA).

As we discussed with your staff recently, NAPCO is aware that the SETNA is already in a downward spiral with declining revenues from landline telephones. Adding a surcharge to pre-paid cellular phone sales will help slow this downward trend, but only if the management of the collection of the surcharge has a minimal impact on the SETNA. It is imperative to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) that the SETNA continue to fund the acquisition of upgrades to the 9-1-1 customer premise equipment for all 455 PSAPs in California. From our research and discussions with other professional public safety associations, it appears the creation and management of gathering this surcharge will exceed the anticipated revenue.

NAPCO must respectfully oppose AB 1717, as amended. We look forward to working with you and your staff on solutions and, on behalf of NAPCO, would like to offer our assistance. Please feel free to call upon us for our subject matter expertise to resolve the issues on this bill.

Sincerely,

John Batarseh, President
Northern California Chapter
Association of Public Safety Communications Officials