



DAMON CONNOLLY
Assemblymember, District 12

NEWSLETTER

DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with my office in both Marin and Sonoma Counties.

This June newsletter, the 18th issue, covers this past month serving as the North Bay's State Assemblymember. June was a busy month both in Sacramento and in AD12!

I'm proud to report that my bills are continuing to pass successfully through their Senate policy committees. As always, I have been holding meetings, hearing from constituents, and spending time in our beautiful district, and I am excited to share these updates with you!



AD 12 UPDATES

Bill Updates

Bill Spotlight

Landline Services Update

Budget Act of 2024

State Mountain Biking Month

Nonprofit of the Year

Sonoma County Pride

District Updates

Capitol Updates

BILL UPDATES

As we approach summer recess in the Legislature, every bill must make it out of the other house's policy committees by July 3rd. As we wrap up Senate committee hearings, all fifteen of my bills are still moving through the Legislature and will next be considered in the Senate Appropriations Committee. My complete and updated bill package is detailed below:



AB 2416 expands the Safer From Wildfires Program
Passed out of the Senate Insurance Committee



AB 2143 moves code sections dealing with fairs to Food and Agriculture Code
Passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee



AB 2251 allows schools to exempt students with health related absences from additional graduation requirements
Passed out of the Senate Education Committee



AB 1864 strengthens the regulations for pesticide use near schools
Passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee



AB 99 restricts the use of RoundUp on state highways
In the Senate Appropriations Committee



AB 1790 strengthens sexual harassment protections at CSU campuses
Passed out of the Senate Education Committee



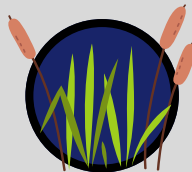
AB 2968 requires improvements to defensible space and evacuation plans in schools
Passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



AB 1778 prohibits individuals under 16 from riding a class 2 e-bike
Passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee



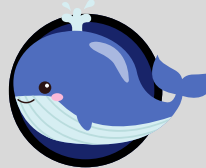
AB 2734 improves the Healthy Soils Program
Passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee



AB 828 protects endangered wetlands and access to clean drinking water
Passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



AB 2897 expands the definition of a Community Land Trust
Passed out of the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee



AB 2298, joint authored with Asm. Hart and Asm. Bennett, expands the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies program
Passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



AB 2196 improves the Beaver Restoration Program
Passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee



AB 1926 expands healthcare coverage for metabolic disorders
Passed out of the Senate Health Committee



AB 2149, also known as Alex's Law, establishes specific standards for large vehicular gates
In the Senate Judiciary Committee

BILL SPOTLIGHT



I recently presented AB 828 before the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, and it passed with a 7-4 vote. AB 828 allows managed wetlands and small disadvantaged communities to use their average annual water usage without being subject to excessive fines by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) as part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

AB 828 protects vulnerable communities and wildlife by safeguarding water supplies for small community water systems and California's managed wetlands, which will improve water quality, flood protection, recreation, and opportunities for scientific research.




At the end of June I presented AB 2416 before the Senate Insurance Committee, and it passed with a 6-0 vote. AB 2416 requires the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to review the Safer from Wildfires regulations every five years, and consider if additional building hardening measures and community level wildfire mitigation programs should be included in the program.

The current state of the insurance market is leaving thousands of families without coverage and causing rates to rise even in areas that are low risk for wildfires and natural disasters. The Safer from Wildfires program is the only avenue open to consumers to receive direct insurance discounts for hardening their homes and neighborhoods.

AB 2416 helps consumers save money on their insurance bills while simultaneously reducing the risk of disaster for vulnerable communities. AB 2416 has passed successfully out of the Senate Insurance Committee, and the bill will now make its way to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

CPUC VOTE DENIES AT&T'S BID TO CUT LANDLINE SERVICE

In response to AT&T's petition to be relieved of its Carrier of Last Resort obligations and to remove its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation in areas of California, I sent a letter alongside my legislative colleagues to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) President. This letter urges the CPUC to preserve landline services so that our residents in areas lacking reliable cellular service and are prone to natural disasters are protected. These legitimate public safety concerns have been voiced to my office by many longtime constituents, and I urged the CPUC to ensure critical communication services are preserved in all areas of California where cellular reception is unreliable and the potential for natural disasters or prolonged power outages are a recurring risk. On June 20, the CPUC voted to deny AT&T's bid to drop landline service that includes free access to 9-1-1 and other important services. I am pleased that the CPUC has considered the concerns of our constituents and has voted in favor of preserving these vital landline services.



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**Assembly
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DAMON CONNOLLY
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC
MATERIALS
JUDICIARY
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON
CLIMATE CRISIS, RESOURCES,
ENERGY, AND TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

March 14, 2024
Alice Busching Reynolds
President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
RE: AT&T Petition to End Landline Service

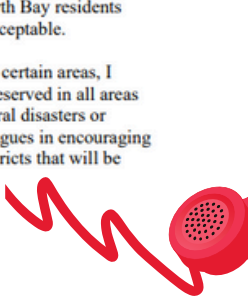
Dear Ms. Reynolds:

I write to you to respectfully raise concerns on behalf of my constituents in Assembly District (AD) 12, which includes nearly 500,000 residents located in Marin and Southern Sonoma Counties, in relation to AT&T's applications to be relieved of its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations and to remove its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation in areas of California.

In the North Bay and throughout the North Coast, many residents are located in areas, sometimes rural or heavily forested, where earthquakes, severe storms, floods, and catastrophic wildfires are common and cellular reception is unreliable. During these times, residents are only able to contact emergency services and obtain emergency updates via their landlines. Notably, even on a day with good weather, many of these areas *still* do not have reliable cellular service. These legitimate public safety concerns have been voiced to my office by many longtime constituents, particularly seniors, some who have never used a cellular phone and do not want to make the switch from their more reliable landline service.

As noted in a letter to the CPUC by my Congressional Colleagues in the California Delegation on February 20, 2024, hundreds of thousands of Californians were without power due to the Pineapple Express weather system storms, floods, and landslides *this year*. Additionally, the earthquake of 2022 left Californians without power for such an extended period of time, people were unable to charge their cellular phones. The only way to call for emergency services and stay in touch with the outside world was via neighbors that had landlines. I share my constituent's concerns that if landlines in these areas are removed, many North Bay residents will be stranded during times of emergencies. This potential scenario is unacceptable.

As the CPUC considers AT&T's proposal to discontinue landline services in certain areas, I implore the Commissioners to ensure critical communication services are preserved in all areas of California where cellular reception is unreliable and the potential for natural disasters or prolonged power outages are a recurring risk. I join my Congressional colleagues in encouraging you to fully and fairly consider the concerns from our constituents in the districts that will be most impacted by the loss of landline services.





BUDGET ACT OF 2024

The Budget Act of 2024 has officially passed out of the California State Legislature, and I am celebrating some significant victories that save key investments and preserve funding for vital programs. The Budget Act, or Assembly Bill (AB) 107, preserves funding for programs that were proposed to be cut or eliminated entirely in the Governor's May Revise budget proposal. These programs include the Marine Mammal Center, adequate compensation for service providers for the developmentally disabled, the state's Active Transportation Program (ATP), and the California Nutrition Incentive Program (CNIP). Through my role on the Assembly Budget Committee and Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy and Transportation, I was able to successfully advocate, alongside my legislative colleagues, to save funding for these programs through the creation of the Joint Legislative Budget Plan and the passage of AB 107.



The Marine Mammal Center, serving twelve marine mammal rescue organizations up and down the California Coast that rescue and rehabilitate stranded and injured marine mammals.



The Developmental Services Provider Rate Reform, increasing rates for providers who deliver care to people with developmental disabilities to address the widespread workforce shortage of direct care staff.



The Active Transportation Program, the state's primary funding source of local projects that encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as walking and biking.



The California Nutrition Incentive Program, encouraging low-income individuals using nutrition benefits to purchase locally grown, healthy California fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts by providing incentives to shoppers at certified farmers markets and small businesses.



STATE MOUNTAIN BIKING MONTH

Early this month I presented ACR 152 on the Assembly floor, designating June 2024 as State Mountain Biking Month. California is widely recognized as the birthplace of mountain biking, with its roots beginning in Marin County in the late 1970s. I'm proud to promote responsible off-road cycling and mountain biking to encourage people to connect with their public lands, increase trail stewardship, and celebrate California's significant mountain biking culture, history, and incredible destinations. Happy State Mountain Biking Month!





NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

I had the pleasure of hosting Latino Service Providers at the Capitol for the ninth annual Nonprofit of the Year luncheon! I selected Latino Service Providers as AD12's Nonprofit of the Year because of their work to educate and network in support of the Latinx community to improve access to healthcare, mental health services, education, legal support and other social services. Latino Service Providers was founded in 1989 to increase awareness of available resources, create access to programs and services, influence public policy, and promote professional development within the Latinx community in Sonoma County. Thank you to the California Association of Nonprofits for hosting luncheon honoring nonprofits from all over the state! To read more about Latino Service Providers and why they were selected as nonprofit of the year, visit their website at latinoserviceproviders.org.





SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE PARADE

Happy Pride! Joined by my wife Dawn and my daughter Brette, I enjoyed celebrating with our AD 12 community at the Sonoma County Pride Parade in Santa Rosa to kick off Pride Month and honor the vast contributions of our LGBTQ+ leaders, activists, community members, and peers. As a proud advocate for equality and inclusion, I am honored to celebrate the strength and diversity within our community.



DISTRICT UPDATES:

SNAPSHOTS

Even though I'm staying busy up in Sacramento during the week, I greatly value my time at home connecting with constituents in AD12. I have had many great opportunities to attend events, tours, and productive meetings with constituents throughout the North Bay in both Marin and Sonoma Counties. Here are some snapshots of some of the meetings and events my office participated in over the past month. As always, our door is open, if you want to schedule a meeting or send an event invite, please reach out through our website by clicking [here](#).



**SPEAKING AT THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF
PETALUMA**



**HOMEWARD BOUND MARIN
GROUNDBREAKING OF 24 HOMES FOR
UNHOUSED VETERANS**



**DISCUSSING WORKING IN THE
LEGISLATURE WITH MARIN AND
REDWOOD EMPIRE YOUNG DEMS**



**CONNECTING WITH APPRENTICES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRIC WORKERS LOCAL 551**

DISTRICT UPDATES

CONTINUED



GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH THAT WILL CONNECT ROHNERT PARK AND SANTA ROSA



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION IN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL PARK



CELEBRATING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE WITH MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS AT THEIR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



SPEAKING AT THE WAGE THEFT & LABOR JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM HELD BY THE SONOMA COUNTY DA



SPEAKING AT SONOMA COUNTY CONSERVATION ACTION'S 34TH GRASSROOTS GALA



JOINING OVER 100 LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AT THE HOME OF SENATOR DODD FOR BRUNCH

CAPITOL UPDATES

SNAPSHOTS

It's always exciting when I have the opportunity to meet with constituents, connect with advocates, and honor leaders on the Assembly floor out in Sacramento! Here are some snapshots of some of the ceremonies, meetings and events my Capitol office participated in over the past month. As always, our door is open, if you want to schedule a meeting or send an event invite, please reach out through our website by clicking [here](#).



PASSING HR 109 ON THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR HONORING 6/24/24 AS WILLIE BROWN DAY



RECOGNIZING NFL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR & CALIFORNIA NATIVE CJ STROUD FOR HIS PRISON REFORM ADVOCACY



PASSING ACR 206 ON THE ASSEMBLY FLOOR, RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH



INTERVIEWING WITH A JUNIOR REPORTER FROM THE CALMATTERS YOUTH JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

As always, my door is open and my staff are available to assist you. Feel free to contact me through my website, or by calling one of my offices.

With gratitude,

Damon

Damon Connolly
Assemblymember, 12th District



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