



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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April 7, 2025

The Honorable Elaine Marzola,  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor  
c/o Nevada State Senate  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: AB 509 (Committee on Commerce and Labor) - Oppose

Dear Chair Marzola,

TechNet writes in respectful opposition to your committee's sponsored bill AB 509, which would redefine a "public utility" and impose new obligations on broadband providers, ultimately creating the potential to stifle competition and innovation in Nevada's internet services market.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

By requiring annual review of providers holding certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCNs) and reclassifying them under a broader "public utility" definition, AB 509 injects unnecessary regulatory uncertainty. Internet providers that do not offer fully "regulated" services could face revocation of their certificates if they fail to meet a vague new standard of "operating as a public utility." The status quo under NV law is pro-competition and innovation. AB 509 would limit competition and creates a risk that would discourage further broadband deployment and undermines the stability that providers rely upon when entering the market as this bill would either require providers with a CPCN to annually meet the modified definition of "public utility" by offering intrastate telecommunications services or have their CPCN revoked.

AB 509 also seeks to enable local governments to impose franchise fees up to 5% of a provider's gross revenue, a measure that could lead to inconsistent fee schedules and duplicative obligations across different jurisdictions. Local governments already have the right to enter into broadband franchise agreements,

Clark County and Las Vegas for example, have entered into such agreements with internet broadband providers.

AB 509 as introduced raises significant concerns about increasing administrative burdens and creating regulatory uncertainties that would limit competition across Nevada. Simply, AB 509 would arbitrarily, materially, and without any apparent public interest rationale, fundamentally change the regulatory environment for internet service providers in a way that would make it impossible for them to operate in Nevada, even after various providers have already entered into agreements with local governments and invested millions of dollars to provide broadband services to Nevada residents.

We ask that you oppose AB 509. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please contact Jose Torres, Deputy Executive Director at [jtorres@technet.org](mailto:jtorres@technet.org) or 909-380-2783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JT', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jose Torres, MPA  
Deputy Executive Director for California and the Southwest