

September 21, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 537 (Quirk) Communications: wireless telecommunications and broadband services – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, **is pleased to support AB 537, which will help equitably bridge the digital divide by expanding access to high-speed internet.** The bill requires local governments to approve or deny broadband permits within federally mandated timelines.

OCBC is committed to addressing digital divide issues in Orange County and statewide. Support from the state is needed to ensure that local efforts to increase broadband access are as successful as possible. Telecommunications projects are often delayed by confusing and challenging local regulations, impeding the delivery of high-speed internet to low-income communities.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Shot Clock rules have been updated since the enactment of AB 57 (2015) to include new communications technology and include different reasonable periods of time for different types of applications. The updated Shot Clock rules are not correctly reflected in state law due to drafting issues. As a result, applicants are often forced to litigate non-action by localities in federal court.

AB 537 aligns California's process with current federal law and restores the statewide remedy as AB 57 intended. This legislation removes unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to allow continued working towards expanding broadband access to communities locally.

For these reasons, OCBC asks you to SIGN AB 537 into law.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs