

September 21, 2021

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

RE: SB 556 (Dodd) Street light poles, traffic signal poles, utility poles, and support structures: attachments – SUPPORT

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, **is pleased to support SB 556 (Dodd), the “California Connectivity Act”**, which would help bring municipalities into conformity with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations in order to accelerate the deployment of 5G wireless broadband statewide.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how essential broadband access is for education, health and work. Ensuring that more Californians can utilize reliable, high-speed broadband connectivity is absolutely crucial, especially for underserved communities. Unfortunately, wireless providers do not have a consistent and predictable process across communities for deploying 5G technology. Assistance from the State is required to remove barriers that prevent providers from meeting today's wireless demand and building out 5G at scale.

SB 556 would require local governments to provide reasonable, nondiscriminatory access to locally owned street light poles and traffic signal poles at cost-based rates. SB 556 calls upon localities to help accelerate deployment of wireless broadband infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and ensure better connectivity by clarifying that local regulations do not conflict with state and federal laws and policies.

For these reasons, OCBC asks you to SIGN SB 556 into law.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Senior Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs