



State of California

925 L Street, Suite 805
Sacramento, CA 95814
PH: 916-445-2125

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 976 - As Amended 7/1/2019

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 976 which would create the Artificial Intelligence in State Government Services Commission.

In its 2018 report, *Artificial Intelligence: A Roadmap for California*, the Commission found that artificial intelligence (AI) is already changing the structure of goods and services in the economy, as well as altering the nature of work. The Commission concluded that, "While some [state] departments are collaborating with the private sector and academia to develop and use new technologies, the overwhelming majority are not preparing or strategizing for an AI world." Among its recommendations, the Commission called for the creation of an AI commission made up of knowledgeable professionals and experts in the field of AI from private industry, governments, nonprofits, unions and academia, for the purposes of: (1) developing AI related demonstration projects for critical state services; (2) incorporating successful AI-related demonstration projects into the state system; and (3) further advancing how data science can be effectively utilized by state government. AB 976 shares the Commission's goals by establishing the Artificial Intelligence in State Government Services Commission.

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 976 and encourages an AYE vote. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

C: Members, Senate Committee on Senate Committee on Appropriations; Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission