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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

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March 4, 2022

The Honorable Vince Fong
1021 O Street, Suite 4630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1795

Dear Assemblymember Fong,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 1795, the measure you authored that would require state boards and commissions to provide members of the public the ability to participate in meetings both in-person and remotely.

In its 2021 report, *The Government of Tomorrow: Online Meetings*, the Commission found that online access to public meetings benefits those who traditionally face obstacles in interacting with state government, such as low-income people, rural Californians, and people with physical disabilities. At a time when our society is rightfully focused on issues of equity and inclusion, requiring that state agencies allow the public to access meetings electronically is a simple, cheap and manageable reform that will make California government more transparent. To increase access to government meetings, the Commission recommended amending the Bagley-Keene Act to require boards and commissions to provide public access to their meetings in both a physical location and a teleconferencing option.

AB 1795 would carry out this recommendation. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this bill. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava
Chairman

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