



State of California

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**Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy**

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April 19, 2021

The Honorable Bill Quirk
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 537

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 537, the measure you authored that would align California law with federal law to ensure that local jurisdictions approve of telecommunications projects within reasonable time periods and utilize permitting best practices.

In its 2015 report, *A Customer-Centric Upgrade for California Government*, the Commission noted that high-speed broadband has become an integral channel for the public to access services, both from government and the private sector. Yet our 2020 Issue Brief on California's Digital Divide found that as many as 2.3 million Californians lack access to broadband, hindering their ability to access education, contribute to a productive economy, and obtain government services. As California ramps up its digital services portfolio it will be critical also to take those last steps to ensure that all Californians have access to affordable, reliable broadband coverage. In its report, the Commission urged the state to improve and expand accessibility to digital government services.

AB 537 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

C: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission

Pedro Nava, Chairman

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Chad Mayes, Assemblymember

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