



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

website: www.lhc.ca.gov

April 1, 2021

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 885

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 885, the measure you authored that would amend the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to require that teleconference meetings that are open to the public be observable both audibly and visually. The bill would also clarify that members of a board participating remotely shall count towards a quorum and would only require public disclosure of the designated primary physical meeting location from which the public may participate.

In its 2015 report, *Conversations for a Workable Government*, the Commission found that changes to the state's open meeting acts have hindered government decision-making processes and reduced transparency. The Commission encouraged the Legislature to find ways to modernize public participation. Furthermore, in another 2015 report, *A Customer-Centric Upgrade For California Government*, the Commission found that state government has fallen behind on providing Californians excellent experiences in their interactions with government. To improve Californians' experiences and build confidence in state government, the Commission called on agencies and departments to offer maximum options for Californians to conveniently access government services -- whatever the platform they choose to use.

AB 885 would carry out these recommendations. 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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Ethan Rarick, Executive Director

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