



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

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July 12, 2021

The Honorable Lena A. Gonzalez
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 378

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 378, the measure you authored that would require local governments to allow microtrenching for the installation of underground fiber.

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.

SB 378 would carry out this recommendation by increasing access to high-speed broadband. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports SB 378. 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

Bill Emmerson

Cathy Schwamberger

Sean Varner, Vice Chairman

Chad Mayes, Assemblymember

Janna Sidley

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Ethan Rarick, Executive Director

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Richard Roth, Senator