



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

July 30, 2021

The Honorable Bill Quirk
California State Assembly, 20th District
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 537 (Quirk) Communications: wireless telecommunications and broadband facilities.
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our respectful OPPOSITION to your AB 537, which would align state law with federal law regarding the approval of wireless telecommunications applications and deploying communications technology. It would place new mandates on local agencies to process and approve applications to install small wireless facilities on traffic and streetlights, while limiting cost-setting authority to provide access to those poles.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how essential high-speed internet access has become to participating in almost every aspect of modern life. Recent research from the University of Southern California indicates low-income households, Spanish-speaking households, Californians with disabilities, and rural households are disproportionately impacted by inadequate broadband access. As more families have struggled to conduct distance learning, virtual work, access telehealth services, and safeguard small business participation in the virtual marketplace, the need to connect the State at sufficient speeds with adaptable technology has reached crisis proportion.

The City of Beverly Hills is supportive of the intention of this measure, which is to expand internet access; however, AB 537 does not make any statutory change which compel telecommunications companies to prioritize underserved communities. Additionally, the provisions in this measure would result in local control being further restricted by state. The City has long supported the preservation of local control, as localities are best suited to aptly address the needs of local constituents.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE your AB 537. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Wunderlich

Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Housing
Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange