



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lester J. Friedman, Mayor

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate, District 33
State Capitol, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 378 (Gonzalez): Broadband Deployment Best Practices
City of Beverly Hills – Oppose

Dear Senator Gonzalez,

I write to inform you that the City of Beverly Hills respectfully Opposes SB 378, your measure which would require local permitting authorities allow fiber to be installed in the quickest, safest, and most cost-effective way. The bill also includes several prescriptive best practices for broadband deployment.

We understand the importance of broadband accessibility and agree the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how crucial this access is to everyone. Unfortunately, as currently written, we believe this legislation is creating a “one size fits all” approach to broadband deployment that may not be feasible for all local governments.

Furthermore, SB 378 gives providers of fiber facilities sole authority to determine the method of the installation of fiber without receiving appropriate feedback from the local community and local government on what would best serve the area. Numerous jurisdictions have spent millions of dollars to underground utilities, and yet SB 378 prohibits a local jurisdiction from unreasonably discriminating in favor or of against the use of aerial installation as well as various other methods of installation. Cities and counties have worked carefully to ensure utilities are installed in such a way as to have the lowest impact on neighborhoods. SB 378 would take this oversight away from local jurisdictions.

The installation of fiber networks are complex planning issues that require several important stakeholder considerations. We believe that local governments are best suited to make the most cost-effective permitting and installation decisions that also reflect local planning priorities.

Unfortunately, we believe this bill, as currently written, will impede our City's ability to do so. Therefore, we respectfully oppose SB 378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester J. Friedman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester J. Friedman
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange