



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

July 30, 2021

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
California State Assembly, 4th District  
State Capitol, Room 5144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry) Communications: Broadband Services: California Advanced Services Fund  
City of Beverly Hills – Support If Amended

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our SUPPORT IF AMENDED position on your AB 14. This bill would authorize local educational agencies to report to the Department of Education their pupils' estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning. In consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the bill would require the Department of Education to compile this information annually and post the compiled information on the Department of Education's website. This bill would also require the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to coordinate with other relevant state and local agencies and national organizations to explore ways to facilitate streamlining of local land use approvals and construction permit processes for projects related to broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the massive gaps in internet connectivity at sufficient speeds for many Californians. As more families struggle 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.

We applaud the goals of AB 14 as the bill seeks to address California's digital divide and expand access to broadband internet to California's disadvantaged communities. However, the City requests the following amendments to the bill:

- Include language that funding is for technology-neutral solutions and is not limited to 5G or fiber;
- Limit the charge by the State to one percent of the total bill;
- Prohibit a company from increasing charges to consumers or cities related to the installation of broadband if the company receives funding from this program;
- Allow local jurisdictions to retain control over permitting and installation processes; and
- Create a consumer assistance fund to assist those less fortunate with payments for broadband services.

The City of Beverly Hills supports the noble concepts of your AB 14; however, we cannot at this time support the measure until the provisions listed above are included in the bill.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

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