<<Date>>, 2021

Assembly Member <<Name>>

State Capitol, Room <<####>>

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Governor’s Broadband Proposal – SUPPORT**

On behalf of <<Organization>>, we urge the immediate passage of the Governor’s proposal to invest $7 billion to make a serious, concentrated effort to close the Digital Divide.

The flexible funding for broadband included in the American Rescue Plan Act and a recent report finding that 100 Mbps fiber can be built to all unserved homes and businesses for less than $10 billion dollars have created a once-in-a-generation opportunity to connect the unconnected while improving affordability and speeds for all Californians.

In my community, <<insert details about how universal broadband will transform your community>>.

The Governor’s plan will address all of the most serious issues that cause the Digital Divide. It will invest in short-term affordability supports for those with access but without the means to connect. It will commit $3 billion to last-mile construction efforts in a way specifically designed to leverage further funding from local agencies and service providers.

Perhaps most importantly, the plan will invest in a transformative public infrastructure project to build a statewide open access middle mile network, which will reduce the costs for all last-mile projects, giving the state a bigger bang for its buck. But beyond that significant benefit, a statewide open access middle mile network is also the only long-term solution to the issues of universal service and affordability. It will make it more cost-effective and therefore more likely for new service providers to build into communities—representing about half of all connections statewide—suffering under a local broadband monopoly.

Using the state’s financial resources to expand broadband is a public good that is both moral and practical, but also urgent. The best time to close the Digital Divide was 20 years ago, but the second best time is now, not next year or two years from now. Committing $7 billion to this effort will be the state’s most serious effort yet to try to close the Digital Divide.

Sincerely,

<<Signature>>