



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 04 2021

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 556 without my signature.

This bill would restrict the ability of local governments and publicly-owned electric utilities to regulate the placement of small cell wireless facilities on public infrastructure and limit the compensation that may be collected for use of these public assets.

In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted many of the requirements that this bill seeks to codify. The provisions of this bill, however, conflict with and complicate some of the FCC requirements. Further, it would be imprudent to codify these requirements in state law in the event the FCC revises them.

There is a role for local governments in advancing our broadband efforts. Part of our achievements laid out in the broadband budget bill, SB 156 (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2020), enables and encourages local governments to take an active role in last mile deployment and, in doing so, drive competition and increase access.

My Administration has worked closely with the Legislature on broadband. I look forward to further discussions as we continue to make a meaningful impact on achieving our collective broadband efforts.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

