



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**JUL 15 2024**

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2708 without my signature.

This bill requires the California Department of Technology (CDT) to annually report new specified information about the cost and estimated completion date of the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI).

My Administration values its continued partnership with the Legislature to develop the largest open-access and publicly-owned broadband middle-mile network in the country. Investments in future-proof infrastructure, such as the MMBI, will further enable high-speed broadband service access to all Californians. The recently adopted 2024-25 Budget augmented funding for the MMBI and codified new and additional oversight and reporting requirements on CDT for the development and operation of the MMBI. This bill is redundant to these efforts and creates an unnecessary ongoing workload for CDT without providing additional accountability or transparency to taxpayers.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

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Gavin Newsom

