



California
Business
Properties
Association



California
Building
Industry
Association



SILICON VALLEY
LEADERSHIP GROUP



CALIFORNIA
RETAILERS
ASSOCIATION
Consumers Economy Jobs



CALIFORNIA
BUILDERS ALLIANCE



SACRAMENTO REGIONAL BUILDERS EXCHANGE



CALIFORNIA
Apartment
Association

March 26, 2021

TO: The Honorable Bill Quirk, California State Assembly

FR: California Business Properties Association
California Apartment Association
California Builders Alliance
California Building Industry Association
California Retailers Association
Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 537

The organizations above are pleased to support your AB 537. The bill will ensure Californians quickly benefit from high-speed internet projects by requiring local governments to approve or deny broadband permits within federally mandated timelines.

California can take immediate steps to close the digital divide by passing AB 537. For too long, telecommunications projects in our state have been delayed by confusing regulations that are entrenched in bureaucracy. These processes have had a severe impact on bringing high-speed internet to low-income and rural communities.

Since AB 57 was enacted, the FCC Shot Clock rules have been updated to include new communications technology and include different reasonable periods of time for different types of applications. The updated Shot Clock rules are not correctly reflected in the California law due to drafting issues – the Shot Clocks have been moved and are now contained and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations – and not in the specific Orders referenced in AB 57.

Applicants for facilities, as clarified by the FCC, do not have a deemed approved remedy and are now faced with the pre-2015 situation of having to litigate non-action by localities in federal court.

We support AB 537 because it would simply align California's process with current Federal Law and restore the statewide remedy as AB 57 intended.

Please contact Matthew Hargrove, California Business Properties Association (CBPA) (mhargrove@cbpa.com or 916-248-9433) if you have any question or would like additional information.