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January 6, 2021

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry) – Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund.
Support – As Introduced December 7, 2020**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in the state, I am pleased to support your AB 14, related to broadband and the infrastructure subsidies needed to deploy it more broadly.

Inequitable access to broadband is a longstanding issue, but the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on students, workers, small businesses, and everyday life has highlighted just how severe and urgent the disparity is. Bringing our infrastructure into the modern era is critical for all communities, whether or not providers consider them profitable.

Addressing these issues will undoubtedly require additional resources to be available as soon as possible, so the additional funding AB 14 would authorize—as well as the authority to issue a revenue bond of up to \$1 billion—is critically important. Counties also appreciate the explicit authority for Boards of Supervisors to approve the construction and operation of broadband infrastructure and services.

For the aforementioned reasons, we support AB 14 and appreciate your efforts on this important issue. We would like to work with you and your co-authors as this bill moves forward to ensure it contains the reforms necessary to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of Californians.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at gneill@counties.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Geoff Neill
Legislative Representative

Cc: Assembly Member Richard Bloom
Assembly Member Rob Bonta

Assembly Member Cristina Garcia
Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia
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