



Community, Equity, Action

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March 30, 2021

Hon. Senator Ben Hueso, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SUPPORT SB 28 (Caballero) as amended Feb. 10, 2021

Dear Senator Hueso

Livable California, a nonprofit that advocates for truly affordable housing, self-determination of local government, and protecting equity and livability, **strongly supports SB 28**

SB 28 is a significant bill to help reduce inequality caused by California's persistent digital divide. Rural communities with low population density and low-income residents lack broadband. 2.3 million Californians lack broadband access.

This bill will help rural, unserved, and underserved communities build broadband networks that reach all Californians lacking access to high-speed internet connection and service.

Its provisions ensure a broadband network developer uses state-owned resources to provide broadband access to rural, unserved, or underserved communities and deploys broadband infrastructure that has the capacity to provide service at a minimum speed of 100 megabits per second (mbps).

SB 28 would prohibit a franchise holder from discriminating against or denying access to service to any group of potential residential subscribers, regardless of their income.

The bill has good enforcement authority authorizing the commission, after an investigation and public hearing, to remove from the holder's franchise

and would authorize the local franchising entity to grant a local franchise for that service area.

Livable California strongly supports teleworking and broadband expansion. We have seen major benefits of teleworking during the pandemic and expect teleworking to continue to be a popular alternative for employees, long after the pandemic is over.

Teleworking allows people more choice of location and lifestyle. It provides geographic and economic equity to communities across California that have, until now, not been able to participate in the economic benefits of the high-cost over-concentrated urban centers.

It also helps mitigate the housing affordability crisis as people choose locations with lower housing costs and we have seen rents in dense urban centers like San Francisco fall.

We welcome changes that facilitate teleworking and thus strongly support SB 28

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of Livable California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Hall", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Hall, President
T Keith Gurnee, Member
Carey White, Member
Isaiah Madison, Member

cc: Senator Caballero