



Community, Equity, Action

2940 16th Street, Suite 200-1

San Francisco, CA 94103

www.LivableCalifornia.org

415-870-1511

April 20, 2021

Hon. Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Committee on Transportation
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: SUPPORT AB 41 (Wood) as amended March 16, 2021

Dear Chair,

Livable California, a nonprofit that advocates for truly affordable housing, self-determination of local government, and protecting equity and livability, **strongly supports AB 41.**

AB 41 will facilitate needed deployment of broadband infrastructure and help mitigate the digital divide that has plagued California:

- Deploying broadband infrastructure as part of projects by the Department of Transportation in priority areas and the installation of broadband conduits capable of supporting fiber optic communication cables with those projects is efficient.
- Requiring the Department to develop guidelines and specifications for the deployment of broadband infrastructure using a microtrench techniques will facilitate use of these efficient techniques.
- The data requirements of this bill will help find opportunities for efficiency and coordination in broadband deployment

AB 41 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, leaving 2.3 million Californians without broadband access.

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 and employers, 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. We have seen rents in dense urban centers like San Francisco fall.

We welcome expanded broadband to facilitate teleworking and strongly **support AB 41**

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