



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

April 6, 2021

PRESIDENT  
Dennis Rodoni  
4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

The Honorable Ben Hueso  
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VICE PRESIDENT  
Judy Arnold  
5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**RE: SB 556 (Dodd) Street Light Poles, Traffic Signal Poles, Utility Poles, and Support Structures: Attachments – Oppose as Amended 3/16/21**

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT  
Damon Connolly  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

Dear Senator Hueso:

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully oppose SB 556, as amended March 16, 2021, relating to the deployment of wireless broadband infrastructure.

Katie Rice  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

SB 556 directly conflicts with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted regulations on wireless services deployment, which cities and counties across the nation are actively implementing. This measure would require local governments to make space available to telecommunications providers without recognizing local authority to manage the public right-of-way preserved in federal law. FCC regulations explicitly enable local governments to ensure that such installations meet appearance and design standards, maintain traffic safety, protect historical resources' integrity, and safeguard residents' quality of life. To protect the public's investment, the control of the public rights-of-way must remain local.

Stephanie Moulton-Peters  
3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

Matthew H. Hymel  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

Diane Patterson  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD

Additionally, SB 556 creates ambiguity in the fees local governments can charge for access to their infrastructure. Federal law explicitly outlines conditions for valid fees, limiting fees to a "reasonable approximation of the local government's actual and direct costs," including costs to maintain a structure within the right-of-way, process an application or permit, and review a siting application. SB 556, on the other hand, chooses not to incorporate these federal standards, further restricting fees to "actual cost" and "reasonable actual cost." If the goal of SB 556 is to implement the existing FCC orders into state law, there should be no added ambiguity created by changes from what was already decided at the federal level.

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SB 556 is an attempt by the telecommunications industry to undermine local authority while making no meaningful progress towards closing the digital divide in California's unserved and underserved communities. As previously mentioned, cities and counties across the nation are implementing the FCC's orders. If California is to close the digital divide, legislative efforts should focus on encouraging and incentivizing telecommunications companies to service areas that for too long have not had access to reliable and affordable internet.

While the County of Marin stands ready to work with the Legislature to further the state's broadband goals, and has actively and consistently supported efforts to

close the digital divide by making broadband more available to unserved and underserved communities, we respectfully oppose any efforts that would limit local authority to manage the local right-of-way while complying with existing FCC decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Rodoni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Rodoni" clearly distinguishable.

Dennis Rodoni, President  
Marin County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Mike McGuire  
Assemblymember Marc Levine  
Marin County Board of Supervisors