



Carolyn McIntyre *President*

925 L Street, Suite 850
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

For Immediate Distribution

July 20, 2021

Contact:

Jon Koriel

(714) 686-4097

jkoriel@fionahuttonassoc.com

Governor Newsom Signs SB 156, Providing A Framework for California's \$6 Billion Broadband Investment

CCTA Urges Governor and State Legislators to Prioritize Unserved Californians When Working Through the Necessary Implementation Details

Sacramento, CA — In response to Governor Newsom signing Senate Bill 156 into law, the [California Cable and Telecommunications Association \(CCTA\)](#) today called on the Governor and state legislative leaders to continue working through the implementation details to ensure California's \$6 billion broadband investment will actually result in connecting California's most chronically unserved communities.

CCTA and its members generally [support](#) Governor Newsom's multiyear investment in broadband deployment and adoption, but several unanswered questions remain. CCTA agrees with our state legislators who have expressed concern around the need to clarify SB 156 to ensure the Governor's plan will actually result in connecting all Californians.

"Through Governor Newsom's \$6 billion broadband investment, we have an opportunity to finally connect unserved Californians to high-speed Internet, so long as we get the details right. While SB 156 provides a loose framework, CCTA agrees with our state legislators that we still have work to do to ensure the state's investment will actually connect chronically unserved Californians," **said CCTA President Carolyn McIntyre.** "By requiring projects to prove financial viability and explicitly prioritizing connections in unserved areas, we will have a robust investment that expands Internet access for the people who need it most."

First, CCTA calls on Governor Newsom and legislative leaders to continue working to ensure they explicitly require that the \$3.25 billion open-access middle-mile network is deployed in "[unserved](#)" areas – defined as having no provider offering service at speeds of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Without this explicit requirement to prioritize the unserved, the proposal cannot ensure that the least served areas in the state will not continue to be left behind.

CCTA also urges state leaders to require all middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure projects to demonstrate "[viability](#)", which means middle-mile projects will provide interconnection for one or more last-mile providers that have a business plan with enough households and businesses likely to subscribe to service.

Additionally, time is of the essence. Building new broadband infrastructure will take several years, and unserved Californians should not have to wait for service any longer than absolutely necessary. Recognizing that all investments are needed to close the digital divide, state legislators need to continue working to streamline the permitting and environmental review processes for ALL broadband deployment projects – whether made with public or private investments.

###

Invested • Innovative • Competitive •

About the California Cable & Telecommunications Association:

The California Cable & Telecommunications Association (CCTA) is the industry's largest state cable and telecommunications association. CCTA is a leader in the development of video, broadband and communications policy in California, and represents the industry before the California State Legislature, state regulatory agencies and the state and federal courts.