



JUDY RITTER  
MAYOR

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 556 (Dodd) Street Light Poles, Traffic Signal Poles: Small Wireless Facilities Attachments.**  
**REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Vista requests your veto on SB 556, related to wireless broadband infrastructure deployment. While we oppose SB 556, the City of Vista is committed to closing the digital divide while continuing to protect and modernize the critical infrastructure in our communities.

While we appreciate the recognition of local authority to manage the public-right-of-way in the most recent amendments of the bill, SB 556 now requires local governments to allow telecommunications providers the opportunity to provide remedies if an application for a pole attachment is denied. Per existing Federal Communication Commission (FCC) decisions, local governments are afforded the authority to deny an application based on "safety, engineering, and insufficient capacity concerns." Local governments should not be required to allow applicants to provide remedies when public health and safety are at risk, as that is inconsistent with what has been agreed upon at the federal level.

The City of Vista opposes any efforts that preempt local authority. 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. 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. SB 556 fails to address the needs of these communities that need broadband deployment the most.

For these reasons, the City of Vista requests your veto on SB 556.

Sincerely,

Judy Ritter  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Bill Dodd, [senator.dodd@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.dodd@senate.ca.gov)  
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