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June 3, 2021

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Senate, 3rd District
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 556 (Dodd) – Oppose

Dear Senator Dodd,

On behalf of the City of Cupertino, I am writing to express our opposition to Senate Bill 556, related to wireless broadband infrastructure deployment.

SB 556 directly conflicts with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) adopted regulations on wireless services deployment, which cities and counties across the nation are actively implementing. This measure requires 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 citizens' quality of life. To protect the public's investment, the control of the public rights-of-way must remain local.

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.

The City of Cupertino shares the desire to further the state's broadband goals, however, these efforts should not inherently conflict with the appropriate local authority to manage the

right-of-way and comply with existing FCC decisions. It is for these reasons that the City opposes SB 556.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darcy Paul", with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Darcy Paul
Mayor
City of Cupertino

cc: Senator Dave Cortese
Assemblymember Evan Low
Assemblymember Marc Berman