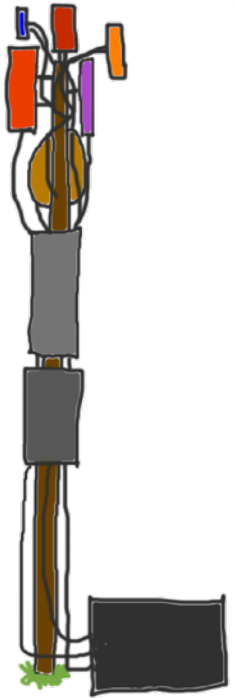


# SB-556 and AB-537 won't close the "Digital Divide." Anyone who says otherwise is badly misinformed. Here's why.

The telecom industry is sponsoring SB-556 and AB-537 to fast-track approvals for its powerful new "small cell" antenna installations. These bills reduce local control over the placement of antennas and shorten the time local officials have to consider applications. They're a big gift to the wireless industry.

The new antennas are needed to allow AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile and others to enter the highly profitable video streaming business without having to run a physical cable into peoples' homes or apartments. This has nothing to do with on-line education or improving access to the internet for low income and rural customers. The telecom industry is hoping a new generation of "cord cutters" will **switch** from their current cable subscriptions to new wireless subscriptions.

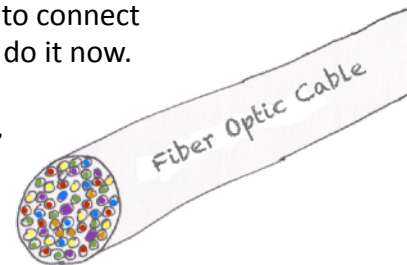
**But not in minority or rural neighborhoods.** The fact is, it's not worth it for the telecoms to install their expensive antennas in underserved communities. People living in these minority or economically challenged areas aren't likely to buy new \$1300 phones or sign up for expensive monthly subscriptions to Netflix, Hulu, Disney + and other services, which is where the telecoms make real money.



## The digital divide is an economic problem that neither SB-556 nor AB-537 will solve.

The telecoms are promising that the passage of SB-556 and AB-537 will help close the digital divide. But they've been promising to stop "digital redlining" and connect minority and rural communities since the 1990s when they began to replace old copper lines with fiber-optic cable. They got the money to connect everyone, but they never did it. And these bills contain **nothing** to make them do it now.

The way to close the digital divide is with a superior technology that is faster, more reliable, more affordable, less prone to hacking and is 100% safe for everyone. A lot of the infrastructure is already in place. **It's fiber-optic to and through the premises, or "FTTP."**



Don't be misled by telecom promises. SB-556 and AB-537 can't possibly close the digital divide, and anyone who says otherwise is either badly misinformed or deliberately misleading you.

**Want to know more? Just ask us.**



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