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Vote NO on SB-556

WHY? It shortens the FCC's shot clock which further undermines the ability of local officials to adequately review telecom applications. It claims to address the digital divide, but does nothing to address the underlying economic reality.

1. SB-556 shortens the FCC's already-short shot clocks, seriously undermining the ability of local governments to adequately review and safely integrate new wireless telecommunications infrastructure into their communities.

- According to the [California League of Cities](#), "SB 556 is an attempt by the telecommunications industry to undermine local authority in broadband permitting while making no meaningful progress towards closing the digital divide in California's unserved and underserved communities." As such, the League opposes SB-556.
- The FCC currently requires localities to respond to applications for the placement of small wireless facilities within 60 to 90 days, depending on the proposed project. This bill shortens that time frame by between 15 and 45 days.
- Local authorities should not be forced to rush through evaluating up to 300 applications in 45 days. Their careful consideration over the placement of these antennas is critical to reducing the risk of personal injury, damage to homes and property, or catastrophic [fires](#).

2. Telecom corporations have reneged on their promises to bridge the digital divide for decades.

- There are two ways to access the internet. "Broadband" access can be delivered either via wired (fiber) to the premises or via wireless technology. SB-556 is misleading because it equates the term "broadband" solely with "wireless broadband." Wireless broadband is the most expensive type of broadband service for consumers, the least reliable type of broadband connection, but is the most profitable for telecom corporations.
- The investment required to bring broadband services to rural and underserved communities has proved financially unattractive to telecom corporations. This bill does nothing to address broadband access and affordability issues.
- According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the best solution to bridge the digital divide for underserved communities is safe, reliable, affordable [community fiber](#) connections to homes, schools and businesses. SB-556 diminishes opportunities for local governments to take advantage of this option, with the State putting its thumb on the scale in favor of *wireless* broadband.