



Governor Gavin Newsom
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814

October 6, 2020

Dear Governor Newsom:

2020 has tested California. The Covid-19 pandemic, a national reckoning with racial injustice, and now the worst wildfires in California's history have overwhelmed our daily lives. In spite of these challenges, communities, lawmakers and business leaders have stepped up to navigate these emergencies with empathy and generosity. Together, we will make it through this time.

As we face these challenges, it is more critical than ever to rethink the status quo and invest in long term solutions that will address the multiple emergencies facing our state. Millions of California families in our cities and rural communities have no access to the broadband they need to access education, healthcare, jobs, and government services. Students, families, workers, first responders, and citizens need access to high-speed broadband (needing speeds of 100 mbps or more) to be truly connected. Our lawmakers have failed to meet this urgent need at our most urgent hour. California cannot wait until next year to begin to address the pervasive digital divide. We need to start work now and empower local public and private partners to build the future proof networks that meet the demands of today and ensure a vibrant economy and robust community for all.

As leaders in industry, local government, non-profit, education, and media, we represent millions of Californian families, teachers, and older adults, all of whom should have access to the benefits of technology. **We urge you to use your authority as Governor to reconvene the state legislature under a special session to pass universal broadband access legislation this year that makes the necessary investments in 21st century access to end the digital divide.**

We thank you for your leadership in issuing Executive Order No. 73-20, which matches many of the goals we seek in universal broadband access legislation. Your leadership is needed again to call a special session of the California legislature, so that all Californians have access to the lifesaving technology that connects us.

Sincerely,

Nancy McPherson, State Director, AARP California
Sean Taketa McLaughlin, Access Humboldt
Eric Null, Access Now
Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy
Omar Carrera, Canal Alliance
Stephen Blum, Central Coast Broadband Consortium
Glenn Sylvester, City of Daly City
Mayor Gregorio Gomez, City of Farmersville
Elizabeth Silva, City of Gonzales, City Council Member
Yanely Martinez, City of Greenfield
Felipe Hernandez, City Councilmember, City of Watsonville
Francisco Estrada, City Councilmember, City of Watsonville
Elizabeth Gettelman Galicia, Vice President of Advocacy, Common Sense
Consumer Action
Susan Grant, Consumer Federation of America
Jonathan Schwantes, Consumer Reports
Council for a Strong America
Paul Miller, Council Member, City of Gonzales
Supervisor Christopher Lopez, County of Monterey
Quincy B., EraseTheRedline Inc.
Caitlin Seeley George, Fight for the Future
Duane Wilson, Founder Academy
Don Means, Director, Gigabit Libraries Network
KC Estenson, GoNoodle
Dirk Tillotson, Great School Choices
Humboldt County Office of Education
Tina Cahill, Indivisible Sacramento
Erin Mote, InnovateEDU
Todd Judd, Intertie Inc.
Ginny T. Lee, Khan Academy
Carlos Victoria, King City Mayor Pro tempore
Karen Borchgrevink, LA Tech4Good
Carina Bustos, Latino Community Foundation
Mark Basnage, MakeKnowledge
Liza Massey, on behalf of Marin County
Rey Leon, Mayor, City of Huron
Fred J. Ledesma, Mayor, City of Soledad
John Goodwin, Mayor, Town of Colma
Brandon Forester, MediaJustice
Michelson 20MM Foundation
Tony Madrigal, Modesto City Councilmember, District 2
Preston Rhea, Monkeybrains
Luis A. Alejo, Monterey County Supervisor, District 1
Joanne C. da Luz, My Yute Soccer

Scot Henley, National Cristina Foundation
Angela Siefer, National Digital Inclusion Alliance
Joshua Stager, New America's Open Technology Institute
North Peninsula Democratic Club
Cathy D. Adams, Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce
Tory Starr, Open Door Community Health Centers
Matt Hatfield, OpenMedia
Karen Tuzman, Peninsula Young Democrats
Harold Feld, Public Knowledge
Andrew Broderick and Karla Suomala, San Francisco Tech Council
Martha Dietzel, School on Wheels
John Windhausen, Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition
South San Francisco Councilmember Mark Nagales
Natalie Wheatfall-Lum, The Education Trust-West
Paul Goodman, The Greenlining Institute
Adam Trueblood, Trueblood Strategy
Tucows
Eddie Valero, Tulare County Supervisor, District 4
Eddie Flores, Vice President, Board of Trustees, South San Francisco Unified School District