**ALL LETTERS MUST BE UPLOADED INTO THE ELECTRONIC PORTAL**. The portal automatically sends letters to the author’s office and the committee(s) of jurisdiction. Please visit [https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/advocates/](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/) to create an account and upload the letter. If you are having difficulty accessing the portal, please contact Meg Desmond at Mdesmond@cacities.org.

In addition to submitting the letter through the portal, please send a physical copy to your Legislator(s), and email a copy to cityletters@cacities.org as well as your Regional Public Affairs Manager.

\*\*\*CITY LETTERHEAD\*\*\*

DATE

The Honorable Ben Hueso

Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee

State Capitol Building, Room 4035

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE:** **SB 556 (Dodd) Street Light Poles, Traffic Signal Poles, Utility Poles, and Support Structures: Attachments.**

**Notice of OPPOSITION** *(As Amended 03/16/21)*

Dear Senator Hueso,

The City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must respectfully oppose SB 556 (Dodd), 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.

Additionally, SB 556 creates ambiguity in the fees local governments can charge for access to their infrastructure. Federal law explicitly outlines conditions for valid fees, limiting fees to a "reasonable approximation of the local government's actual and direct costs," including costs to maintain a structure within the right-of-way, process an application or permit, and review a siting application. SB 556, on the other hand, chooses not to incorporate these federal standards, further restricting fees to "actual cost" and "reasonable actual cost." If the goal of SB 556 is to implement the existing FCC orders into state law, there should be no added ambiguity created by changes from what was already decided at the federal level.

**PLEASE CITE SPECIFIC CONCERNS AND HOW YOUR CITY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS BILL HERE.**

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.

While the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stands ready to work with the Legislature to further the state's broadband goals, these efforts do not inherently conflict with the appropriate local authority to manage the right-of-way and comply with existing FCC decisions. For these reasons, the City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ opposes SB 556 (Dodd).

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

CITY/TOWN of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

cc: The Honorable Bill Dodd

Your Senator & Assembly Member

Your League Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)

League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org