



July 6, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
 Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
 State Capitol, Room 412  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 286 (Wood) Broadband infrastructure mapping - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Portantino,

The undersigned organizations strongly support AB 286 (Wood), which improves the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) statewide broadband map by increasing transparency, granularity, and accuracy for household broadband service data. The bill has minimal direct cost to the state.

There are significant [disparities in broadband adoption across California](#), and to thrive in modern society, California's families need affordable, high-quality internet service. Unfortunately, the patchwork of varying broadband access and internet speeds across our state disproportionately affects rural, tribal, and low-income communities. This practice, referred to as "digital redlining," demonstrates the need for greater transparency from the internet service providers (ISPs) we have trusted to serve our communities.

Mapping efforts at the federal and state levels have suffered without timely, accurate [data from ISPs on their service areas](#). Consistent misrepresentation of service to unserved and underserved communities further ingrains historical redlining and disincentivizes investment in these communities, which is more critical than ever before as [federal funding begins to be allocated](#).

AB 286 would empower households to refute speeds or technology that ISPs claim to provide to their address as well as submit their own verified data on internet service speeds, pricing, access to providers, and more. More granular data in the statewide map like this will ensure state agencies have a better understanding of internet service offerings for unserved and underserved communities. Identifying these inequities is a critical step in addressing digital redlining and achieving universal internet access.

The undersigned organizations strongly support policies and programs that ensure more Californians have access to high quality, affordable internet services. We also believe that internet access must be treated as a right for all Californians and not just a luxury for some. For the above reasons, we respectfully request your “Aye” vote on AB 286.

Sincerely,

Kami Peer, California Policy Manager  
Common Sense Media

Shayna Englin, Director Digital Equity Initiative  
California Community Foundation

Arnold Sowell Jr., Executive Director  
NextGen California

Tracy Rosenberg, Executive Director  
Media Alliance

Jason Foster, President & COO  
Destination Crenshaw

Dan Nieman, Vice President, External Affairs  
Para Los Niños

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California

Geoffrey Baum, Executive Director  
Michelson Center for Public Policy

Patrick Messac, Director  
#OaklandUndivided

Lawrence Foundation, Executive Director  
United Parents and Students (UPAS)

Hannah Gravette, Regional VP  
Innovate Public Schools

Maddie Ribble  
Policy Director, Social Drivers of Health  
The Children's Partnership

Paola Schenkelberg, MSW  
External Affairs Director

Brandon Forester  
National Organizer for Internet Rights

Communities In Schools of Los Angeles (CISLA)

Mario Valenzuela, Senior Vice President  
Equity, Inclusion, & Social Impact  
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles

Ana Ponce  
Executive Director  
GPSN

Sean Taketa McLaughlin  
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Access Humboldt

Vanessa Aramayo  
Executive Director  
Alliance for a Better Community

Eric Ohlsen  
Founder  
Community Coalition of the Antelope Valley

Jessica Nelson  
General Manager  
Golden State Power Cooperative

MediaJustice and the MediaJustice Network

Norma Fernandez  
CEO  
EveryoneOn

Ricky Abilez  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
Arts for LA

Maria Villamil  
Senior Program Manager  
California Native Vote Project

Jorge Rivera  
Co-Founder  
Healing and Justice Center

Chao Jun Liu  
Legislative Associate  
Electronic Frontier Foundation