



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,

Ernesto Falcon, Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Elizabeth Gettelman Galicia, Vice President of Advocacy, Common Sense  
Luis A. Alejo, Monterey County Supervisor, District 1  
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  
Alegra Howard, 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

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  
Graeme Bunton, Tucows  
Eddie Valero, Tulare County Supervisor, District 4  
Eddie Flores, Vice President, Board of Trustees, South San Francisco Unified School District