



Latino Caucus of California Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCCC Commends Governor Newsom and Legislature for Historic Broadband Budget Bill

California – Latino Caucus of California Counties (LCCC) President V. Manuel Perez (Riverside County – 4th District) commends Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D – San Diego), and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) for their agreement on a historic broadband budget bill – AB/SB 156. Through this additional funding, California’s broadband fiber infrastructure will be expanded to increase connectivity for those who need it most.

“The LCCC is proud of the work that the Governor and Legislature have done to provide much-needed internet access to all Californians” said **LCCC President V. Manuel Perez (Riverside County – 4th District)**. “In the 21st Century where technology is such an integral part of our society and every-day living, there is no reason anyone should not have reliable access to the internet. This is especially true in a state that boasts the world’s 5th largest economy and is home to the world’s technology epicenter – Silicon Valley. AB/SB 156 will provide an additional \$5.25 Billion to connect Californians with local networks. Additionally, this broadband budget bill will provide greater accountability and oversight to ensure no Californian is left behind. The COVID-19 pandemic made it abundantly clear that California’s broadband infrastructure was subpar in meeting the needs of Californians. This significantly impacted students in disadvantaged communities who struggled in school due to lack of reliable internet connection, as well as workers who could not work remotely due to having no broadband access. Although there is still much work to be done, this announcement by California’s leaders is a significant step in the right direction to abolish the accessibility gap between those most fortunate and the Californians who reside in disadvantaged and rural communities.”

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The Latino Caucus of California Counties is an organization which encourages the engagement and involvement of its Board and membership, works to provide solutions to issues and concerns of our Latino communities, and promotes Latino leaders.