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| Dear Fellow Rural Caucus Members (and Allies), Just in case you run into your Assembly Member or State Senator at a Fourth of July celebration, please ask about getting the **broadband middle mile budget trailer bill** **passed ASAP**. They might not be aware that there is a hang up. Ask them to convey a sense of urgency to leadership and urge them to be champions.To bring you up to date, the Governor’s office has revised the revised to focus on $3.75 B in federal dollars to build statewide open access middle mile broadband infrastructure. Its nickname is “Broadband Trailer Bill Junior".The funds are earmarked for California out of the American Rescue Plan but there are hard deadlines when the funds need to be encumbered and when the project must be completed. It’s a short turn around, there is a lot of work to do, there is a movement in Congress to claw back unused funds, the clock is ticking. What are we waiting for? **Our ask is that our elected officials speak up to leadership about getting this passed without delay.** The voters want it. It is paid for. Why tempt fate? Not doing so could lead to a needless, fruitless, and frustrating crisis like we experienced last August in the Legislature over broadband, resulting in zilch.I can not overstate the magnitude of this opportunity. Building a statewide open access middle mile broadband network will be the greatest infrastructure project of our time. ﻿It will be the core of our communications.It will make it economically feasible for the market to take over the build out of the “last mile” to households, businesses, and farms.  It benefits every county in the state. Look at our current [**broadband map by district**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010KLoWuHrwQ-3nZjo4c50Pxi9rCjYjp3b3oc6vmbqL9xkm3opcorWp15Lic4hJaRCU1ZWIuEjEnh7PI6bEVPAciaWNlL7wAsf0JIwcR3zI4_GiET3rAcJV3s_lyQaUKBFrvKHW5fYADeBLj4CMR8gv7YN-KsmSB1hfAk4w9sBv7BFgSFh1D1iPCnon5B74N1zw--ziYJm8HKUxp0sLof9GQ9FviipF_ni&c=ZuREW4tqp22oNLcLrXSFqo1HgryA4EGaoOBJ8OVFwQx5P50leaBXoQ==&ch=DoPE1AnCPMAQ4nSUmczj6LFtUAiySEbxWuWDZXKP372es6Ccp_y1fw==): [**https://bit.ly/broadbandbydistrict**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010KLoWuHrwQ-3nZjo4c50Pxi9rCjYjp3b3oc6vmbqL9xkm3opcorWp15Lic4hJaRC1LIhhlhbatWELok1n_QtpmI7x_hhIStzPAZ5e1orPhVdjl9d9abmV7yA_Z-QPVQyeQM2K0NiWq4W7GJuNkFGyDbJYoNSAnK4&c=ZuREW4tqp22oNLcLrXSFqo1HgryA4EGaoOBJ8OVFwQx5P50leaBXoQ==&ch=DoPE1AnCPMAQ4nSUmczj6LFtUAiySEbxWuWDZXKP372es6Ccp_y1fw==)**.**A study by Purdue University says every dollar invested in rural broadband returns $4 to the community.This bill also covers so called "doughnut holes" in urban areas. Please push for this broadband funding and how important it is for all Californians with calls, emails and Tweets.Have a safe and happy 4th of July! With all my very best, Joy |

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| Joy Sterling | Rural Caucus Chair | 707 484 0013 | joy@ironhorsevineyards.com[www.cdpruralcaucus.org](http://www.cdpruralcaucus.org) |

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| STAY CONNECTED |

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