

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

May 13, 2021

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 11, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1336 entitled:

“AN ACT Relating to creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users.”

Section 11 of this bill would allow local governments that are out of compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA) to access funding distributed by the Public Works Board (Board) for broadband infrastructure. This language is almost identical to section 4 of 2SSB 5368 (encouraging rural economic development), but the language in this bill also requires an update to the Washington Administrative Code. Current law prohibits any funding distributed by the Board to go to a GMA noncompliant jurisdiction unless that funding is necessary to address a public health need or substantial environmental degradation. The new exception in Section 11 does not rise to the same level of urgency established in current law. In addition, an underpinning of the GMA has been that noncompliant jurisdictions are unable to access various forms of infrastructure funding. Broadband is critical infrastructure comparable to roads, bridges, and water systems, and should be treated the same before the Board.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 11 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1336.

With the exception of Section 11, Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1336 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor