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Office of the Governor

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro
Majority Leader of the Nevada State Senate
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Senate Bill 93 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Leader Cannizzaro:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Senate Bill 93 ("SB 93"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to broadband; establishing certain requirements for a state agency that awards grants of federal money for the development of broadband services and infrastructure; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

While expanding broadband access and supporting a skilled workforce is an admirable goal, SB 93 introduces several challenges that could undermine its effectiveness. Rather than fostering broad, efficient deployment of broadband, the bill risks creating unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, stifling competition, and delaying progress.

The bill's rigid, prescriptive requirements—such as a fixed 30% labor scoring criterion, mandatory prevailing wage standards, vague training mandates, and a 50% "local" workforce requirement—undermine the flexibility needed to administer broadband grant programs effectively. By imposing these standards, SB 93 significantly limits the discretion of the Executive Branch, potentially hindering the state's ability to respond nimbly to broadband needs in diverse regions.

Federal broadband programs prioritize the speed and reach of projects, often requiring swift action to meet evolving demands. SB 93's complex application process—requiring state agencies to score applicants, verify certifications, and enforce compliance with labor conditions—could create misalignment with federal timelines, slowing down the rollout of critical broadband infrastructure.

Furthermore, by awarding 30% of an applicant's score based on labor-related criteria, SB 93 disproportionately disadvantages smaller, local businesses that may struggle to meet the bill's stringent workforce or paperwork requirements. This could exclude local providers, particularly in rural areas where reliable broadband is most urgently needed, thus reducing the competitiveness of the grant process and limiting opportunities for community-based providers. To clarify, the term "local" in SB 93's employment requirement refers to "residents of this State." However, given the impact of broadband projects on the community, it would be more fitting for "locals"—those who live within the affected area—to benefit from a 50% staffing requirement. This would better ensure that the community directly impacted by the project has a meaningful stake in its success.

Because SB 93 would significantly delay broadband deployment in Nevada's rural communities and unnecessarily inflate the time and costs required to initiate projects statewide, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it to you without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,

JOE LOMBARDO
Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)
The Honorable Francisco Aguilar, Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)