



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Rudy Salas
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4016
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 106 (Salas)—Regions Rise Grant Program

Dear Assemblymember Salas,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 106, which proposes to establish the Regions Rise Grant Program. As part of a \$1 trillion regional economy, the City has multiple initiatives in process to expand regional collaboration with other jurisdictions and partners, including digital inclusion and public transportation.

For the past 10 years, Long Beach has been named a Top 10 Digital City by the Center for Digital Government. While new technological advancements have helped the City achieve this recognition, 28 percent of Long Beach residents lack access to in-home broadband Internet. This finding led the Long Beach City Council to unanimously approve the creation of a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan and Roadmap in 2018 with strategies to advance digital inclusion through a collective impact approach and equity lens. A strategy the City is implementing with Los Angeles County will provide free, high-quality Internet and devices in publicly subsidized housing, the success of which is dependent upon joint funding opportunities like those proposed by AB 106.

In Long Beach, over 77 percent of residents work outside of City limits, and regional collaboration grants would help support the City's efforts to expand access to transportation. In 2017, the Long Beach City Council unanimously adopted the City's Economic Development Blueprint, which includes actions to increase active transportation and public transportation options across Long Beach. AB 106 would provide a critical financial resource to meet this goal and enable the City to transport workers—particularly service sector workers in hospitality and food services—on public and private shuttle systems.

The City supports legislation to expand public-private partnerships that foster innovation to address economic and social challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for equitable regional planning in California, which AB 106 will promote. Given these reasons, the City supports AB 106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", written over a white background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District