



September 13, 2002

The Honorable Gray Davis  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 468 (FIREBAUGH) LEASING OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY  
SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Davis:

The California Community Technology Policy Group (CCTPG) strongly recommends your signing AB 468 (Firebaugh) into law. This bill would support Digital Divide projects by collecting 15% of revenues generated from future leases of state owned property.

CCTPG is a collaborative of over 100 community-based organizations across the state. These organizations provide many services to the community, including after-school programs and public access to computers and the Internet. Many of these organizations serve low-income communities in which sustainable jobs are scarce, gang violence is prevalent, and education ranks low on the priority list.

Through the programs that we provide, we have seen many positive effects in the lives of the residents who use our services. Youth who come in after-school flourish in our safe and positive environment. They receive help with their homework through the assistance of computers and the Internet. As a result, we have witnessed, in the lives of these students, changes in their attitudes of life and their motivation to learn. What we experience anecdotally is backed up by research that have established a positive relationship between technology and enhanced academic achievement.

In addition to youth benefiting from our program, adults also gain from our services. Adults come in to develop new skills that they can apply in their jobs; use the Internet to search for, learn about, and apply for new jobs; or take on-line educational course to position themselves for a better job. These services help to ensure that Californians have the job skills that employers want, especially in California, where our economy rests largely upon the high tech industry and jobs that require technology skills.

By signing AB 468, you will put much needed resources in communities that need it most. These resources will be used to support programs that keep youth off of unsafe streets, motivate students to do better academically, and prepare youth and adults for the jobs of the future. Please sign AB 468.

Sincerely,

Richard Chabran  
Chair