



August 17, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1159 (Cabaldon): Artificial intelligence: transparency and governance – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Cabaldon,

Omidyar Network supports SB 1159, which preserves the ability of the public to participate in open government during the artificial intelligence revolution.

Omidyar Network's philanthropic and investment efforts have continued for more than two decades and stem from our founder's work at two great California companies, PayPal and eBay. We envision a world where our shared humanity steers our digital future. So far, we have committed nearly \$2 billion to initiatives that share our vision.

AI systems are revolutionizing how Californians obtain information and engage with each other and with their institutions—including government. Government agencies are [increasingly using AI](#) to analyze and synthesize large datasets to build effective policies and to facilitate public participation in the administrative process. Technological innovation and adoption is key to efficiency and fair use. While so-called "[governance by algorithm](#)" tools can significantly enable decision-making, AI can also significantly burden government systems absent clear guardrails. In particular, we need better guardrails for when AI chatbots are manipulated to contribute information, testimony, or public comment, so that machine-generated submissions do not overload public dockets, overinflate the public support or opposition to a given policy, and do not undermine transparency and accountability.

SB 1159 updates California's administrative and governance laws for the AI era to ensure that human voices are heard and our state's government remain accountable to people, not bots. The bill clarifies that California's open meeting, administrative procedures, and public records laws apply to natural persons, not AI systems, agents, machines, or other nonhuman entities.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 1159 and thank you for bringing forward this important measure.

Sincerely,

Anamitra Deb
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