



**February 19, 2024**

Dear Members of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than half a million employees throughout Minnesota, we would like to raise the following concerns with House File 2021.

A vibrant local and globally competitive economy depends on digital commerce. Decisions about the regulatory framework impact Minnesota businesses both as suppliers and as purchasers of goods and services.

Regulation of the internet is the purview of the federal government. Federal policymakers should be the ones to set the appropriate regulatory structure to ensure an open internet, internet privacy, and telecommunications law and policy.

State policy should stay within the federal framework to ensure a cohesive national system and to avoid a patchwork of laws among the states. Minnesota should continue to pursue a “light touch” regulatory approach and defer to federal policymakers on efforts to regulate the internet.

This proposal would establish new state-specific requirements in law that would make Minnesota a less competitive environment for broadband investment and business development.

Sincerely,

Brian Cook  
Director, Energy and Elections Policy