



April 27, 2020

Members of the Greater Minnesota Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division,

On behalf of the Minnesota Cable Communications Association, thank you for your work on HF3029 which will help ensure students get the equipment and connectivity they need for distance learning, and will supplement the Border to Border Broadband Grant Program's continuing efforts to bring broadband to the few remaining unserved areas of Minnesota. MCCA appreciates the leadership of Representative Ecklund and the committee on this important legislation.

Millions of Minnesotans are now working, doing schoolwork, and entertaining themselves at home. Minnesotans are relying on the internet to keep them connected to their jobs, their schools, their families, and the world. MCCA members are proud of their high-quality broadband networks, which have enabled them to meet the challenges presented by the sudden and dramatic societal changes caused by COVID-19.

These circumstances have underscored the importance of broadband access. For several years, MCCA members and other broadband providers have leveraged Minnesota's Border to Border Broadband Grant Program to reach unserved areas. The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development's maps show that the State of Minnesota has been successful in reducing the percentage of the state yet unserved by broadband. The grant program has proven very effective at targeting funding to reach the most difficult and expensive to serve areas, providing additional leverage to the over \$1 billion dollars of private capital invested by MCCA members on Minnesota network expansion over the last decade.

This investment has paid off. As our nation adapts to many of our daily activities moving online, broadband networks are performing well, despite significant surges in online activity. Network providers, engineers, and technicians are continuously monitoring demand and are working around the clock to maintain robust service and ensure reliable, high quality broadband service. To see a report of key metrics during the pandemic regarding how cable's internet networks are performing in Minnesota, you can go here: <https://www.ncta.com/COVIDdashboard>

MCCA has posted on its website summaries of the public commitments its members are making in response to the need for Minnesota residents to stay at home. You can find this information here: <https://www.mncca.com/responding-to-covid-19/>

Thank you again for your partnership, and please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance to you or your constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Boroff".

Anna Boroff
Executive Director
Minnesota Cable Communications Association