



May 6, 2021

**Via Email to Omnibus Agriculture/Broadband Finance Conference Committee**

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Rep. Nelson – [rep.nathan.nelson@house.mn](mailto:rep.nathan.nelson@house.mn)

Sen. Dornink – [sen.gene.dornink@senate.mn](mailto:sen.gene.dornink@senate.mn)

Rep. Pelowski – [rep.gene.pelowski@house.mn](mailto:rep.gene.pelowski@house.mn)

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Sen. Westrom – [sen.torrey.westrom@senate.mn](mailto:sen.torrey.westrom@senate.mn)

Dear Conferees,

On behalf of the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA), we write to express our support for the below provisions in the Agriculture/Broadband Finance Omnibus bill.

**Farm-to-school Sales – Farm to school programming provides children in Minnesota with opportunities to eat locally grown, fresh and healthy foods. Children learn where food comes from, and the importance of farming and agriculture in our communities. Being introduced to healthy and nutritious food at a young age helps to shape healthy food preferences throughout life.**

- Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 4 (House): FY22 = \$800,000; FY23 = \$800,000  
Funding to develop and enhance farm-to-school markets for Minnesota farmers by providing more fruits, vegetables, meat grain, and dairy for Minnesota children in school and child care settings including, at the commissioner's discretion, reimbursing schools for purchases from local farmers.

**Broadband – Online learning during the COVID-19 crisis has exposed internet access disparities among students. Lack of internet access has been an obstacle to learning for many students in unserved and underserved areas. Since technology supported learning will be part of the future of education in Minnesota, reliable broadband is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity.**

- Article 3, Section 2 (Senate): FY22 = \$30,000,000; FY23 = \$10,000,000  
Deposit into border-to-border broadband fund account.
- Article 3, Section 2 (House): FY22 = \$30,000,000  
Deposit in the border-to-border broadband fund account.

We appreciate your efforts and thank you for your leadership. Please contact us if we can provide clarification or additional information.

Sincerely,

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Minnesota School Boards Association

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