

## WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

This bill will provide tribal governments with the same ability to negotiate pricing plans as is currently available to state government, educational institutions, public corporations and political subdivisions under Minn. Stat. §237.066.

## WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

The importance of this bill is that it will serve to protect the public interest, help reduce economic barriers and ensure a strong, competitive and fair marketplace. This bill will give recognition that sovereign tribal nations should be given no less deference from telecommunications carriers than what is given to state government.

## HOW WILL MINNESOTANS BE BETTER OFF IF WE PASS THIS BILL?

This bill will serve to protect the public interest, reduce economic barriers and ensure a strong, competitive and fair marketplace within the eleven (11) Federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota.

This bill will give equity and inclusion to Tribal Nations within telecommunication statutes as it will provide the legal right, and recognition, that tribal governments are not the same as other company customers. It makes it explicit that the law is to “ensure the availability of high-quality technologically advanced telecommunications services at a reasonable cost” to tribal governments.