

House Industrial Education and Economic Development Committee
Chair, Representative Gene Pelowski
State Office Building, Room 491
Saint Paul, MN 55155



Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition
2401 Broadway Ave, Suite 1
Slayton, MN 56172

March 17, 2021

Dear Chair Pelowski and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 90 members, the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition writes in **support of HF 14**. This bill would appropriate **\$120 million to the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program** over the next two years and helps ensure we meet our state speed goals. HF 14 will target the hardest-to-reach areas of our state that desperately need investments in broadband infrastructure. This bill would make a historic investment in our state grant program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we need broadband now more than ever. This is especially true in our rural communities, many of which have been unserved or underserved for many years. Broadband is the critical infrastructure that allows us to work, learn, receive care, and communicate with friends and family.

Thank you for dedicating your time and resources to hearing these bills and emphasizing the importance of broadband in Minnesota.

Respectfully yours,

Vince Robinson
Chair
Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition