



March 23, 2022

Dear Members of the Industrial Education and Economic Development Finance & Policy Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter in support of HF 3605 (Rasmusson), the Broadband Line Extension Grant Program.

The Minnesota Chamber, which represents over 6,300 businesses with over 500,000 employees, believes our state's economic growth requires a robust and accessible broadband infrastructure. Minnesota has made enormous strides in recent years through a combination of private sector, federal and state investments.

However, there are still Minnesotans who lack access to reliable, fast internet connections. These places tend to be where geography, population density or other issues make the business case for deployment economically challenging.

The Broadband Line Extension Grant Program managed by the Office of Broadband would effectively utilize a portion of the available federal broadband funds to provide broadband connections to these hard-to-reach homes and businesses.

This program would effectively supplement existing state and federal programs to achieve our goal of improving internet access throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Brian Cook
Director, Energy and Elections Policy