

ST PAUL

AREA CHAMBER

401 N Robert Street, Suite 150
St. Paul, MN 55101

MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT

April 2, 2024

Rep. Ginny Klevorn, Chair, House State and Local Government Committee
581 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klevorn and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 1,700+ members and affiliates of the St. Paul Area Chamber, I would like to express our opposition to H.F. 4182, which would allow local governments to impose duplicative franchising taxes on broadband companies operating in Minnesota.

At a time when reliable internet connectivity is more crucial than ever to drive local economic growth, we should not be passing policies that would create barriers to access and prevent the growth of broadband infrastructure.

Moreover, we are concerned that this legislation will increase broadband costs for lower-income consumers in Saint Paul, who will already be impacted by the expiration of the Affordable Connectivity Program's \$30 monthly broadband subsidy later this spring. This program has been instrumental in providing low-income households with access to affordable broadband services, bridging the digital divide and promoting economic inclusion. Any legislation that imposes additional financial burdens would further jeopardize the affordability and accessibility of broadband services for those who need them most.

We urge you to consider the impacts of this legislation as you make decisions that will shape the future of broadband access and deployment in Minnesota. For these reasons, we hope you will oppose H.F. 4182.

Respectfully,



B Kyle President & CEO
St. Paul Area Chamber

cc: Rep. Mike Freiberg

