

## **Community of Minnesota Resorts**

March 20, 2022

Rep. Gene Pelowski 491 State Office Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: HF 3605 Broadband Line Extensions

Chair Pelowski:

The Community of Minnesota Resorts (CMR) held a virtual Day on the Hill last week to connect with legislators on issues important to resorting and tourism.

During several of our legislative meetings the issue of rural broadband was discussed. We have long advocated for border-to-border broadband and are supporting Rep. Rasmussen's legislation to extend broadband service lines to unserved areas.

Broadband is a critical service for our businesses and resort guests. Many visitors attempt to stay virtually connected while away from the office and this was even more evident during the pandemic. HF 3605 helps focus attention on small areas that still need service, and the grant process included in the bill will help make line extension economically viable. Without it, these small pockets without service will continue to be left behind. We hope you and your colleagues will support it.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support greater broadband service in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mike Schwieters, President Community of Minnesota Resorts Boyd Lodge, Cross Lake

cc: Sen. Mark Johnson Rep. Jordan Rasmussen Joel Carlson, CMR Lobbyist