

House Ways and Means Committee  
Chair, Rep. Rena Moran  
State Office Building, Room 449  
Saint Paul, MN 55155



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

April 15, 2021

Dear Chair Moran and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 90 members, the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition writes to support the **\$30 million in funding for the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program as well as \$350,000 per year to staff the Office of Broadband Development in the HF 14 DE-2 Amendment.**

We saw firsthand how important access to broadband has been during the darkest days of the pandemic. Every corner of our state and every sector of our economy was impacted. Communities with access did better. Now is the time to invest in communities without access and bring them online.

Our state grant program is the premier program of its kind and has invested over \$100 million in expanding broadband infrastructure in places that do not have it. HF 14's funding will move us closer to connecting every Minnesotan to high-speed, quality broadband internet.

We want to thank Chair Moran for considering this bill as well as Rep. Ecklund for his tireless work on the issue over the years.

Respectfully yours,

Vince Robinson  
Chair  
Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition

# Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition Members

Arrowhead Health  
 Arrowhead Regional Development Commission  
 Association of Minnesota Counties  
 Barbara Dröher  
 Chisago County HRA/EDA  
 Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota  
 City of Winthrop  
 Clay County  
 Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative  
 Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities  
 CoBank  
 Community of Minnesota Resorts  
 Community Technology Advisors Corp  
 Consolidated Telephone Company  
 Cooperative Lights  
 Cooperative Network  
 Cooperative Network Services  
 Development Services, Inc.  
 East Central MN Educational Cable Cooperative  
 East Central Regional Development Commission  
 Economic Development Association of Minnesota  
 EssentiaHealth  
 Federated Rural Electric  
 Finley Engineering  
 Fond du Lac Tribal Communications

GPS 45:93  
 Great River Energy  
 Greater Minnesota Partnership  
 Growth and Justice  
 Hay Creek Township  
 Headwaters Regional Development Commission  
 Hiawatha Broadband Communications  
 IMPACT 20/20  
 Institute for Local SelfReliance  
 Iron Range Economic Alliance  
 Isanti County  
 ISD 317 Deer River  
 Jody Kramer, CPA  
 Kanabec County EDA  
 Kandiyohi County Economic Development  
 League of Minnesota Cities  
 Leech Lake Tribal Telecommunications  
 Le Sueur County Broadband Coalition  
 Lincoln County EDC  
 Meeker Cooperative  
 Meeker County EDA  
 MidMinnesota Development Commission  
 MiEnergy Cooperative  
 Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
 Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers

Minnesota Association of Small Cities  
 Minnesota Association of Townships  
 Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
 Minnesota Farm Bureau  
 Minnesota Farmers Union  
 Minnesota Library Association  
 Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association  
 Minnesota Public Broadband Alliance  
 Minnesota Rural Education Association  
 Minnesota Rural Electric Association  
 Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
 MN Association of Community Telecommunications and Administrators  
 MN River Valley Education District  
 MN Rural Counties Caucus  
 MN Telecom Alliance  
 MVTW Wireless  
 Neighborhood National Bank  
 Nemadji Research Corporation  
 Nobles County Economic Opportunity Network  
 North Region Health Alliance  
 North Star Township  
 Northeast Service Cooperative

Northland Foundation  
 Northwest Minnesota Foundation  
 NW Regional Development Commission  
 PCs for People  
 Project FINE  
 Range Association of Municipalities and Schools  
 Redwing Ignite  
 Redwood County  
 Region 5 Regional Development Commission  
 Region Nine Development Commission  
 Schools for Equity in Education  
 Sherburne County EDA  
 Sourcewell  
 Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative  
 Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation  
 Southwest Initiative Foundation  
 Southwest Regional Development Commission  
 SPIRE Credit Union  
 Treacy Information Services  
 Turtle Island Communications  
 Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission  
 West Central Initiative  
 Winthrop EDA



