

January 20, 2021



House Committee on Industrial Education and Economic Development Finance and Policy
Chair Gene Pelowski
491 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Broadband grant program funding / H.F. 14 (Ecklund)

Dear Chair Pelowski and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) appreciates the opportunity to share written testimony on behalf of our nearly 30,000 members to support for H.F. 14. – broadband grant program funding. MFBF is a member of the Rural Broadband Coalition. Together with more than 80 members the Rural Broadband Coalition supports legislation to increase access to reliable broadband, especially through infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed lives in many ways and now we rely on broadband more than ever before. Whether it be for remote work, precision agriculture capabilities, educating children in the home or staying connected with loved ones, broadband has become a necessary utility.

For example, as we approach spring, we also approach calving season in many areas around the state. Farmers and ranchers continue to raise and protect their animals. One way that access to broadband can help is through the use of livestream cameras. Farmers and ranchers can set up technology to allow them to continuously monitor the health of their animals during a critical and precarious time.

For the reasons discussed above we respectfully ask for the committee's support as H.F. 14 moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Kevin Paap
President
Minnesota Farm Bureau

Physical Address: 3080 Eagandale Place, Eagan, MN 55121-2118 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164-0370

Phone: 651.768.2100 Fax: 651.768.2159 Email: info@fbmn.org www.fbmn.org