



Office of Mayor Jacob Frey
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Minneapolis, MN 55415
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March 18th, 2025

Rep. Paul Anderson
Co-Chair, Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Rep. Rick Hansen
Co-Chair, Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Support for House File 2279

Dear Chair Anderson, Chair Hansen, and House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee Members:

The City of Minneapolis supports H.F. 2279 (Vang), which would update the State's broadband office and goals to include not only broadband construction, but track Minnesotans' adoption of home broadband, and computer access.

The City is committed to ensuring all residents have access to high-speed, affordable broadband. Digital access is a fundamental necessity for education, healthcare, employment, and civic engagement.

Many areas still lack sufficient broadband infrastructure, leading to gaps in reliable service, and we support policies that encourage investment in broadband expansion to ensure all communities have access to high-speed internet. And yet, expanding broadband infrastructure is only part of the solution. Service must also be affordable for residents and businesses. As broadband needs evolve, the state's broadband policies and programs must be updated to reflect current challenges.

The bill would amend the Office of Broadband Development (OBD) to include digital access and related duties, and update State broadband goals to include the 2028 goals that DEED published last year in its Minnesota Digital Opportunity Plan; namely, that 94.3 percent of Minnesota households have a home broadband subscription and enrolled in an Internet service plan; and, that 93.7 percent of Minnesota households have access to a personal computer or a comparable device.

Importantly, DEED would report progress toward these goals and also provide the Legislature with data on broadband speed, accessibility, and impact on economic development.

Enacting this bill would help create a more comprehensive digital landscape where all Minnesotans, regardless of location, have access to the opportunities provided by broadband and computers. We urge you to support passage of this bill.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey,
City of Minneapolis



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Re: Support for House File 2279

Dear Chair Anderson, Chair Hansen, and House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee Members:

We write to support H.F. 2279 (Vang), which would update the state's broadband office and goals to include not only broadband construction but also track Minnesotans' adoption of home broadband and computer access.

Our organizations are committed to ensuring all residents have access to high-speed, affordable broadband. Digital access is a fundamental necessity in our 21st-century society for education, health care, employment, and civic engagement.

Many areas still lack sufficient broadband infrastructure, leading to gaps in reliable service. We support policies that encourage investment in broadband expansion to ensure all communities have access to high-speed internet. And yet, expanding broadband infrastructure is only part of the solution. Service must also be affordable for residents and businesses. As broadband needs evolve, the state's broadband policies and programs must be updated to reflect current challenges.

The bill would amend the Office of Broadband Development to include digital access and related duties, and update state broadband goals by including the 2028 goals that DEED published last year in its Minnesota Digital Opportunity Plan; namely, that 94.3% of Minnesota households have a home broadband subscription and are enrolled in an internet service plan; and, that 93.7% of Minnesota households have access to a personal computer or a comparable device.

Importantly, DEED would report progress toward these goals and provide the Legislature with data on broadband speed, accessibility, and impact on economic development.

Enacting this bill would help create a more comprehensive digital landscape where all Minnesotans, regardless of location, have access to the opportunities provided by broadband and computers. We urge you to support passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Melvin Carter
City of Saint Paul, Minnesota