



January 20, 2021

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

Dear Chair Pelowski and Committee Members:

Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness has been the leader in protecting the Boundary Waters and the Greater Quetico-Superior Ecosystem for over forty years. As part of this work, we advocate for sustainable economic development in communities across the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota. Reliable broadband access is an essential part of building a sustainable economy in the Arrowhead Region and throughout Greater Minnesota and it is for this reason that Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness strongly supports H.F. 14.

As more Minnesotans look to take advantage of remote work by moving to Greater Minnesota, reliable broadband coverage is no longer a luxury, it is a modern necessity. This bill will increase access to high-quality broadband service across our great state by providing much-needed infrastructure funding. By providing high-speed internet coverage for the Arrowhead Region and throughout Greater Minnesota, people who are already living in these wonderful communities will be able to take part in the modern economy and a new generation of Minnesotans will be able to move into these communities, enjoy access to the outdoors and a high-quality of life, while working remotely for jobs across the country.

On behalf of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and our thousands of members across the State of Minnesota, we urge the committee to support H.F. 14 and urge the full House of Representatives to enact this important legislation. Please contact me at any time at 651-999-9565 or at chris@friends-bwca.org, if we can be of further assistance to advancing H.F. 14.

Sincerely,

Chris Knopf
Executive Director