

1913 Turquoise Trail
Eagan, MN 55122

April 3, 2024

Dear Chair Klevorn, Rep. Hansen and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee,

Thank you to Chair Klevorn and Rep. Hansen for supporting the Equal Access to Broadband Bill. I write today to ask that the House State and Local Government Committee support HF4182 Equal Access to Broadband Act.

I am a 23-year resident of Eagan, MN. I have been employed in community TV for over 26 years and have volunteered in community TV for over 35 years in the northern part of Dakota County. Funding for community TV has traditionally been funded with funds generated from Cable TV franchising based on the use of public rights of ways by for profit cable TV companies. This model funding predates the common internet access a majority of the population now subscribe to from a for profit company. All services that use the public rights of ways should pay compensation to the local governments that oversee these rights of ways.

As the subscriptions to traditional cable TV has reduced over 50% during the past 15 years it is only fitting that internet services that use public rights of ways provide funding to support Community TV as over 65% of today's internet traffic is used for video streaming. Community TV is still a community asset that needs a funding source to continue to cover city meetings, high school sports, concerts, local arts, local history, nonprofits and community news.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Joseph L. Conlon