



# Chaska

**April 2, 2024**

Representative Ginny Klevorn  
Chair, House State and Local Government Finance & Policy Committee  
581 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klevorn and Members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee,

The City of Chaska is writing in support of the Equal Access to Broadband Act HF 4182.

The Equal Access to Broadband Act will allow local governments like the City of Chaska to negotiate franchise agreements for use of the public rights-of-way by broadband providers. For years, the City of Chaska, along with other Minnesota communities, have negotiated franchising agreements with cable television providers, and this bill will modernize legislation to continue the benefits of franchising for our residents, businesses, schools, and nonprofits.

HF 4182 will modernize the funding structure of local community television. The City of Chaska currently has two Comcast channels, 14 and 15, and we rely on cable TV franchise fees and PEG fees. This funding supports diverse local coverage that helps residents engage with our community. This programming includes government meeting broadcasts, candidate forums, community event coverage, local news, sports, art, music, and nonprofit programming.

This programming has become essential. We have a strategic goal to be a welcoming, respectful, engaging, and inclusive community. Providing our community with more access to information will help us better reach more of our community.

While we distributed our information across many digital platforms, franchise fees are only paid on traditional cable television service, which is shrinking. Franchising broadband will help us continue to provide content that serves our community.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act.

Matt Podhradsky  
City Administrator  
City of Chaska