1.1   .... moves to amend H.F. No. 2313 as follows:

1.2   Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3   "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.395, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

1.4   Subd. 7. **Limitation.** (a) No grant awarded under this section may fund more than 50

1.5 percent of the total cost of a project.

1.6   (b) Grants awarded to a single project under this section must not exceed ~~$5,000,000~~

1.7 $10,000,000.

1.8   Sec. 2. **[116J.3952] LOWER POPULATION DENSITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.9   Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A lower population density grant program is established

1.10 in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The purpose of the lower

1.11 population density grant program is to provide broadband service to unserved and

1.12 underserved areas of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not adequate to make a

1.13 business case for the extension of broadband facilities.

1.14   Subd. 2. **Grants.** Grants awarded under this section may fund up to 75 percent of the

1.15 total cost of a project and must otherwise adhere to section 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6

1.16 and subdivision 7, paragraph (b).

1.17   Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.396, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.18   Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** Money in the account may be used only:

1.19   (1) for grant awards made under sections 116J.395 ~~and~~ to ~~116J.3951~~ 116J.3952, including

1.20 costs incurred by the Department of Employment and Economic Development to administer

1.21 that section;

2.1   (2) to supplement revenues raised by bonds sold by local units of government for

2.2   broadband infrastructure development; or

2.3   (3) to contract for the collection of broadband deployment data from providers and the

2.4   creation of maps showing the availability of broadband service.

2.5   Sec. 4. Laws 2022, chapter 95, article 4, section 2, is amended to read:

2.6   Sec. 2. **LOWER POPULATION DENSITY PILOT PROGRAM.**

2.7   (a) The commissioner of employment and economic development must establish a pilot

2.8   program to provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas, as defined in

2.9   Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.394, of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not

2.10   adequate to make a business case for the extension of broadband facilities. Grants awarded

2.11   under this section shall adhere to all other requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section

2.12   116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6, and may fund up to 75 percent of the total cost of a project,

2.13   notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes section 116J.395, subdivision 7. Grants awarded to a

2.14   single project under this section may not exceed $10,000,000.

2.15   (b) The commissioner of employment and economic development may use up to

2.16 $30,000,000 from the appropriations in sections 3 and 4 for the lower population density

2.17   pilot program under paragraph (a).

2.18   (c) No later than December 31, 2023, the Office of Broadband Development must submit

2.19   a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives

2.20   committees with primary jurisdiction over broadband policy and finance analyzing the

2.21   impacts of this section on the number and amounts of grants awarded under Minnesota

2.22   Statutes, section 116J.395.

2.23   (d) This section expires December 31, 2026.

2.24   Sec. 5. **BROADBAND GRANTS; TRANSFERS.**

2.25   (a) $108,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and $108,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 are transferred

2.26   from the general fund to the border-to-border broadband fund account established in

2.27   Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.396, subdivision 1, for border-to-border broadband

2.28   development grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.395.

2.29   (b) $30,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and $30,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 are transferred

2.30   from the general fund to the border-to-border broadband fund account established in

3.1   Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.396, subdivision 1, for lower population density program

3.2   grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.3952.

3.3   (c) These are onetime transfers."

3.4   Amend the title accordingly