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March 7, 2023

Chair Samantha Vang  
House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Vang and members of the committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) and a member of the Rural Broadband Coalition, I write to express strong support for HF2313, investing in the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program and others that will help farmers and others connect. Strong and consistent funding will help us make sorely needed progress toward ensuring that every Minnesotan can access quality, high-speed internet.

MFU is a grassroots organization that has represented Minnesota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities since 1918. Family farmers rely on the internet to connect with customers, monitor market trends, educate themselves on the latest farming methods, and make use of modern farming technology—it's increasingly essential to running a farm business. Not only that, but farmers, like all Minnesotans, use the internet to access healthcare, attend school remotely, and engage with their community.

That's why our members again identified broadband development as a top priority this session. High speed internet isn't a luxury—it's a need.

We appreciate Vice Chair Pursell's hard work to make sure all Minnesotans are connected and ask for your support of HF2313. If you have any questions, please contact our Government Relations Director, Stu Lourey, at [stu@mfu.org](mailto:stu@mfu.org) or (320) 232-2047 (C). Thank you for considering the needs and perspectives of Minnesota's farm families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wertish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Wertish  
President, Minnesota Farmers Union