



2401 Mounds View Boulevard • Mounds View, MN 55112-1499
Phone: 763.717.4000 • Fax: 763.717.4019

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Ginny Klevorn
Chair, State and Local Government Committee
581 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4182 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Klevorn and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I write to convey the wholehearted endorsement of the City of Mounds View for HF 4182, also known as the Ensuring Broadband Equality Act. This legislation is pivotal in ensuring that all residents of Minnesota have equitable access to robust broadband services, regardless of their location.

Reflecting on the historical trajectory of telecommunications regulation in our state, we commend the progressive approach taken with the 1973 Minnesota Cable Act. This legislation paved the way for local franchising of cable systems, fostering a commitment to fairness in service provision. However, it's imperative to acknowledge the existing gaps in our regulatory framework, particularly in encompassing the full breadth of broadband providers.

In response to the evolving digital landscape, HF 4182 offers an opportunity to modernize our regulatory approach. By expanding local franchising to include broadband services from all providers, we can ensure consistent access to high-quality broadband for all residents. This not only promotes fairness and consumer protection but also facilitates access to essential public services and digital resources.

Given the indispensable role of broadband connectivity in contemporary society, we urge the committee to support the Ensuring Broadband Equality Act. This legislation represents a crucial step towards bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusive growth for all communities in Minnesota.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warm regards,

Zach Lindstrom
Mayor