



March 22, 2022

Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr., Chair
Industrial Education and Economic
Development Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House
491 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Debra Kiel, Ranking Member
Industrial Education and Economic Development
Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House
491 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF3605

Chair Pelowski, Ranking Member Kiel, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Technology Association (MnTech) to voice our support for HF3605.

MnTech is a coalition of more than 200 member companies united in building a stronger tech ecosystem and innovation economy in Minnesota. We work to ensure that Minnesota's technology-driven companies have access to exceptional talent, dedicated public policy advocates, and are part of an innovative and inclusive technology community. For more than 30 years, MnTech has helped nurture each of these attributes within our state, enabling Minnesota technology-driven businesses, professionals, and communities to thrive. Our member companies work the spectrum of technology, from IT, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, fintech, agtech, cleantech, and edutech, and range from long-established corporations to small and growing startups.

One of MnTech's highest priorities is ensuring all Minnesotans, no matter their location in the state, have access to high-quality broadband internet service. Mn Tech's goal is to expand the availability and use of broadband technology to access new markets, enhance education opportunities, improve quality of life, and provide Minnesota citizens and businesses the capabilities necessary to compete in a dynamic, global marketplace. According to the Minnesota Governor's Task Force's on Broadband 2021 report, there are 171,000 unserved households, 80% of whom are rural, in the state.

HF3605 includes important provisions to ensure that even as broadband makes it across the state, local residents and businesses do not miss out on being able to access broadband because of the location of their home or business, especially in rural areas of the state. It also includes provisions to allow the Office of Broadband to address individual residence or business' concerns with not accessing broadband, including



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overcoming financial barriers that often result from needed service extensions. This legislation will help achieve the vision of Border-to-Border broadband in the state without leaving anyone behind, supporting increased access to internet and technology across the state.

Equally important to MnTech members is that broadband access be quickly distributed across the state. We encourage members to look at additional ways to speed up the distribution of funds for the deployment of broadband across the state, and will support efforts to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Katie McClelland

Katie McClelland
Director of Policy & Research
Minnesota Technology Association

Cc: Representative Jordan Rasmusson