



City of Robbinsdale, MN
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March 20, 2024

Members of the House Commerce Committee

Re: HF 4182 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

At the March 19, 2024 Robbinsdale City Council meeting, the Council discussed HF 4182 – The Equal Access to Broadband Act. As this legislation will allow local governments, like the City of Robbinsdale, to negotiate franchise agreements for broadband providers' use of right of way (ROW), we support the opportunity like with other current utilities.

The City continues to partner with CCX media to produce and communicate incredibly important and timely information to our residents, and we find the proposed legislation helps modernize benefits for residents, businesses, and our local school district. The opportunity for local franchises to promote these efforts remains a priority for the City, and those we serve.

Further, The Equal Access to Broadband Act provides an equitable approach for services that are now necessary for the communities we serve. As we have observed with other utilities over the past decades, the way of life continues to evolve, and we want to support that the evolution of these services are promoted in a successful way for all people that we serve.

At current, we unfortunately see many community television stations like CCX Media experience significant budget losses due to subscribers consuming content through new ways – sometimes referred to as cord-cutting. Current fees, including PEG from traditional cable television continue to drop with the number of subscribers dropping. However, the services that our local provider CCX are not decline; in fact, they continue to grow. Local providers like ours produce incredibly important content like City news, community programming, school district events, and updates from our elected officials.

Ultimately, the City of Robbinsdale and its City Council offer its support for HR 4182. Please let us know if you have questions.

Thank you for your continued support of our local community and all the people we serve!

William A Blonigan
City of Robbinsdale, Mayor