



March 30, 2022

Senate Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Committee
Senator Torrey Westrom, Chair

Dear Chair Westrom & members of the committee,

The Minnesota Cable Communications Association appreciates the support of the committee for broadband provisions in the DE amendment to SF4019, specifically:

- Line extension program: The DE amendment includes language in SF3476 to help ensure we don't leave Minnesotans behind when it comes to having a strong broadband connection. This language creates an additional tool for the Office of Broadband to help reach small pockets of unserved homes. *(DE Article 4, Sec. 1)*
- Easements: The DE amendment includes language from SF3476 to give all broadband providers the same easement rights. *(DE Article 4, Sec. 3)*
- Federal broadband funding: MN Cable believes it is crucial that federal funds be routed through our state's proven and efficient Border to Border grant program. This ensures funds are targeted toward the households and businesses that lack broadband access. *(DE Article 2, Sec. 4)*

Minnesota Cable shares the goal of legislators in increasing broadband access across the state. Our members actively pursue ways to serve the most difficult and expensive areas, and we have made significant progress. In addition to the industry's private capital, cable providers have completed over \$22 million in projects across the state using Minnesota's Border to Border Broadband grant funds to serve an additional 8,452 households previously unserved or underserved. Multiple MN Cable members will also leverage federal broadband funds to reach thousands more unserved homes in Minnesota over the next few years. Together these sources will help complete our shared mission of ubiquitous access to broadband across Minnesota.

We look forward to continuing partnering with you and appreciate the Committee's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Boroff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anna Boroff
Executive Director