



**MINNESOTA LIBRARY**  
ASSOCIATION

April 2, 2024

Sen. Matt Klein  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Net Neutrality

Chair Klein and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The Minnesota Library Association (MLA) supports net neutrality and its critical role in ensuring equitable access to ideas and information, supporting intellectual freedom, and protection against censorship. Today, most libraries (99% of MN public libraries) provide internet access for individuals to achieve important goals for themselves and their communities. For many, this access is their primary link to the internet, facilitating engagement with news and culture, education, job opportunities, civic dialogue, and more. Net neutrality ensures that all content is accessible without discrimination, preserving a diverse range of ideas in our society. As such, MLA urges support for SF 3711.

Libraries are community anchor institutions supporting equitable access to information; this increasingly means support for broadband-enabled services. Today, the internet is no longer a "nice to have" but an essential service. Net neutrality guarantees equal treatment of all "digital speech," irrespective of origin, content, or purpose. The internet without net neutrality threatens equality of access, hindering the free flow of ideas. Without the protections of net neutrality, tiered access and prioritized content based on financial interests leads to censorship, restricting access to diverse information sources. Minnesota libraries believe in the importance of equitable access to information for libraries and users to safeguard intellectual freedom.

MLA strongly urges the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection to support net neutrality principles represented in SF 3711.

Sincerely,

*Jodi Grebinoski*  
MLA President  
Library Director  
Virginia Public Library

*Sarah Hawkins*  
MLA Legislative Co-Chair  
Assistant Director  
Anoka County Library

*Liz Lynch*  
MLA Legislative Co-Chair  
Executive Director  
Lake Agassiz Regional Library