

Grey Cloud Island Township, MN
9910 Grey Cloud Island Dr. S.
PO Box 4
St. Paul Park, MN

03/18/2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of Grey Cloud Island Township is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future. SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

The Town Board of Grey Cloud Island Township
Phil Dupre, Chair
Dick Polta, Supervisor
Jake, Supervisor

Pam Dupre, Clerk
Grey Cloud Island Township
651-459-6236

Madam Chair Peggy Clayton
20356 Wendigo Park Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone 218-259-1551

Harris Township

SINCE 1909



NEIGHBORS, SHORES & MORE

Supervisor VC Mike Schack 340-8852
Supervisor Ryan Davies 929-0610
Supervisor Dan Gilbert 259-4967
Supervisor Jim Kelley 327-0317
Treasurer Nancy Kopacek 398-3497
Clerk Kelly Derfler 244-1811
harristownshipclerk@gmail.com

Mission Statement:

The Harris Town Board strives to enhance the quality of life, protect the environment, and maintain economic stability for the residents of their community.

www.harristownshipmn.org

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

Harris Township is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future. SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband- with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Peggy Clayton
Chair, Harris Town Board

RAMSEY-WASHINGTON SUBURBAN CABLE COMMISSION

2460 East County Road F
White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110

Birchwood Village

Dellwood

Grant

Lake Elmo

Mahtomedi

Telephone: 651-747-3800

Oakdale

White Bear Lake

White Bear Township

Willernie

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155


Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The Ramsey/Washington Suburban Cable Commission is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future. SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Cindy Arko | Business Manager
Suburban Community Channels
Ramsey/Washington Suburban Cable Commission
cindy@scctv.org | www.scctv.org



Experience LIFE in the Park.

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of St. Louis Park is writing in support of the Equal Access to Broadband Act SF 2045. This legislation will allow local governments like St. Louis Park to negotiate franchise agreements for use of the public rights-of-way by broadband providers. For years, the City of St. Louis Park has negotiated franchising agreements with cable television providers, just as many other Minnesota communities have. The bill will update legislation to continue the benefits of franchising for our community.

SF 2045 will modernize the funding structure of local community television. ParkTV currently has three Comcast channels. We rely on cable TV franchise fees and PEG fees to support programming on these channels including city meetings and events; St. Louis Park Public Schools sports, events and school board meetings; and private school athletics including those of Benilde-St. Margaret.

The opportunity for our residents to watch city council, planning commission and school board meetings where decisions are made that will impact them, as well as to watch candidate and elected official forums and events and sports, art and music coverage from our city and schools, is critical to the fabric of our community. Expansion of franchise fee to apply to broadband providers and not only to cable providers will help ensure the city and ParkTV can continue and enhance its service to the community, even as consumers increasingly turn to broadband-only services to consume media content.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Keller".

Kim Keller
City manager
City of St. Louis Park

CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MACTA EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC,
EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT (PEG) PROGRAMMING/PUBLIC ACCESS
FUNDING**

WHEREAS, community television programming allows community members to stay connected and entertained through public, education, and government (PEG) programming; and

WHEREAS, public television programming includes local community and nonprofit submissions, City Council and board and commission meetings, and community events; and

WHEREAS, public television programming has primarily been funded through franchise fees which allow cable providers to utilize the public right-of-way for private use; and

WHEREAS, with the recent consumer trend of moving from traditional cable providers to digital/video streaming services, the funds available for public television programming has decreased; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) is a statewide organization of municipal and nonprofit staff that advocates for cities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is launching a campaign to create legislative changes at the state and federal level that will respond to consumer changes and allow current practices to modernize in response to these shifts; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is working with Minnesota cities to gain support for their legislative efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Spring Lake Park that the City Council offers their support to the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators' (MACTA) effort to modernize local access funding through legislative change.

The foregoing Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff.

Upon Vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Councilmember Wendling,
Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran,
Mayor Nelson

And the following voted against the same: None

CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MACTA EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC,
EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT (PEG) PROGRAMMING/PUBLIC ACCESS
FUNDING**

WHEREAS, community television programming allows community members to stay connected and entertained through public, education, and government (PEG) programming; and

WHEREAS, public television programming includes local community and nonprofit submissions, City Council and board and commission meetings, and community events; and

WHEREAS, public television programming has primarily been funded through franchise fees which allow cable providers to utilize the public right-of-way for private use; and

WHEREAS, with the recent consumer trend of moving from traditional cable providers to digital/video streaming services, the funds available for public television programming has decreased; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) is a statewide organization of municipal and nonprofit staff that advocates for cities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is launching a campaign to create legislative changes at the state and federal level that will respond to consumer changes and allow current practices to modernize in response to these shifts; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is working with Minnesota cities to gain support for their legislative efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Spring Lake Park that the City Council offers their support to the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators' (MACTA) effort to modernize local access funding through legislative change.

The foregoing Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff.

Upon Vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Councilmember Wendling,
Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran,
Mayor Nelson

And the following voted against the same: None

CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MACTA EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC,
EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT (PEG) PROGRAMMING/PUBLIC ACCESS
FUNDING**

WHEREAS, community television programming allows community members to stay connected and entertained through public, education, and government (PEG) programming; and

WHEREAS, public television programming includes local community and nonprofit submissions, City Council and board and commission meetings, and community events; and

WHEREAS, public television programming has primarily been funded through franchise fees which allow cable providers to utilize the public right-of-way for private use; and

WHEREAS, with the recent consumer trend of moving from traditional cable providers to digital/video streaming services, the funds available for public television programming has decreased; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) is a statewide organization of municipal and nonprofit staff that advocates for cities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is launching a campaign to create legislative changes at the state and federal level that will respond to consumer changes and allow current practices to modernize in response to these shifts; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is working with Minnesota cities to gain support for their legislative efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Spring Lake Park that the City Council offers their support to the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators' (MACTA) effort to modernize local access funding through legislative change.

The foregoing Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff.

Upon Vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson

And the following voted against the same: None



March 20, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of Spring Lake Park is pleased to express its strong support for SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. As technology evolves and broadband becomes an essential utility for residents and businesses, it is crucial that local governments have the ability to ensure equitable broadband access through local franchising authority.

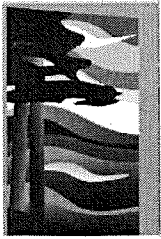
Current franchising laws for cable systems have ensured that residents receive consistent and high-quality service. SF 2045 modernizes these laws to reflect the shift toward broadband as a primary means of communication, education, and economic development. By granting cities the ability to franchise broadband services, this legislation will help ensure that all residents—regardless of geography or socioeconomic status—have equal access to reliable, high-speed internet.

The City of Spring Lake Park urges the committee to support SF 2045 and advance this important legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson
Mayor

cc: Spring Lake Park City Council



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

420 NORTH POKEGAMA AVENUE, GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744-2662

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

Access to local government meetings is critical to democracy. Without local public television to broadcast city and county meeting, our citizen will likely be uninformed of decisions being made on their behalf. With cable television subscriptions greatly diminishing, the ability to fund public television stations is being eliminated. This is why the City of Grand Rapids is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act.

It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future. SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service and are informed on decisions their local governments are making on their behalf.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Regards,

Tom Pagel
City Administrator



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of Northfield is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future. SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Martig'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'B' and 'M'.

Ben Martig
City Administrator

City of Robbinsdale
4100 Lakeview Avenue North
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
763-537-4534
www.robbinsdalemn.gov



March 19, 2025

Members of the Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Re: SF 2045/HF974

During the 2024 legislative session, the City of Robbinsdale signaled support for HF 4182 – The Equal Access to Broadband Act. While healthy discussion was considered to give local governments the ability to negotiate franchise agreements for broadband providers use of right of way, we did not see legislation advance.

With a new Council make-up in 2025, the City of Robbinsdale City Council adopted a set of Legislative Priorities this past January, including a section titled “Authority to Franchise Broadband/Internet Service Providers”. The City of Robbinsdale continues to partner with CCX media to produce and communicate incredibly important and timely information to our residents – the proposed legislation helps modernize benefits for residents, businesses, and our local school district.

A community like Robbinsdale has a lot to offer. However, when it comes to hyper-local news, or celebrating our successes, we do not have the resources required to tell our story to the level we should. This legislation provides our city the ability to continue our partnership with CCX (and the many other cities and school districts they serve) by modernizing the revenue stream for community television. As people continue to consume media in more modern ways, the funding needs to be modernized, too.

We appreciate your consideration of the matter, and look forward to continued progress on the issue.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Sandvik", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Sandvik
City Manager, City of Robbinsdale





City of Osseo

415 Central Avenue
Osseo, MN 55369-1195

Main: 763-425-2624

Fax: 763-425-1111

To Members of the Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for SF 2045/HF 974, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. This legislation is crucial for the City of Osseo, as it will enable our city to ensure that all residents have equitable access to high-quality broadband service, regardless of their neighborhood.

Local franchising has a history of success in Minnesota. When cable television emerged, the state enacted the 1973 Minnesota Cable Act, which authorized local franchising of cable systems. Through local franchising, cities were able to require cable operators to provide the same quality of service to all residents.

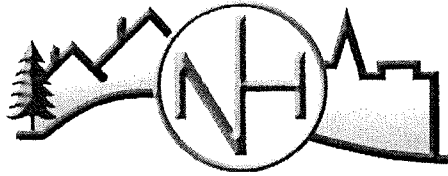
However, current local franchising rules only apply to cable companies not to broadband-only companies. SF 2045/HF 974 will modernize local franchising to include broadband provided by all types of companies. This will ensure more equitable deployment of broadband, stronger consumer protection, and public benefits.

This legislation is vital for Osseo. Like many other cities, we rely on franchise fees to support essential community programming, including government meeting broadcasts, candidate forums, community event coverage, local news, sports, arts, and nonprofit programming. Modernizing franchising will allow us to continue providing this important content to our residents.

I urge the Committee to support the Equal Access to Broadband Act.

Thank You,

Shane Mikkelsen
City Administrator
City of Osseo



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of New Hope is pleased to express its support for SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to update our local franchising laws to reflect the evolving communications landscape, as broadband represents the future of connectivity. SF 2045 will enable cities to franchise broadband services in a manner similar to how cable systems are currently franchised. In the past, cable franchising ensured that residents received consistent quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged around broadband, it is essential to refresh the law to allow for local franchising of broadband, aiming to guarantee that all residents in every city have equal access to the same high-quality broadband service.

As technology and methods of receiving information change, our franchising agreements must adapt accordingly. Currently, local franchising applies only to cable companies, leaving phone and broadband-only companies without similar regulations. SF 2045 would modernize local franchising, enhance consumer protections, and update the funding structure for local community television.

With an increasing number of residents turning to streaming services, traditional cable subscriptions are on the decline. Thus, modernizing the funding model for local community television has become critical. In New Hope, the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission/CCX Media provide our residents with access to important local coverage that fosters an informed and engaged community. CCX Media delivers content featuring local events, nonprofit activities, school sports and academic programs, local businesses, elections and government proceedings at city, county and state levels. All programming that mainstream broadcast stations often overlook.

Thank you for considering the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

John Elder, Mayor

Keece Bertholf, City Manager

CITY OF NEW HOPE

4401 Xylon Avenue North, New Hope, Minnesota 55428-4898 | newhopemn.gov | 763-531-5100



March 20, 2025

Chair Putnam and Members of the Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2045 – Rest.

Metro Cities supports language in the bill that would allow local governments to require franchise fees from a provider furnishing broadband and to receive compensation for the use of the public right-of-way. Local units of government contribute to increasing broadband capacity and ensuring internet connectivity, reliability, and availability.

Metro Cities supports legislation authorizing cities to franchise broadband/internet service providers (ISPs) in the public right-of-way and to collect franchise fees from these providers. Broadband franchising will allow a city to require equal access to the same quality of broadband service throughout a city, to require reasonable build-out and system upgrades of broadband systems, to require uniform pricing and other customer service requirements, as well as other public benefits.

Finally, Metro Cities supports the use of franchise fees on broadband or other dedicated funding to support local community television, which has seen declining funding from cable franchise fees and public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access fees as consumers switch to internet-based streaming over traditional cable tv service.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ania McDonnell'.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist



March 18, 2025

Dear Members of the Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee:

The City of Plymouth enthusiastically **supports SF 2045/HF 974 – the Equal Access to Broadband Act**. The legislation would permit cities to negotiate franchise agreements for use of the public rights-of-way by broadband providers. This would allow local governments to ensure all residents have equal access to high-speed internet and streaming services, as well as access to crucial community information, regardless of their income level.

The legislation would modernize the funding structure for local community PEG (public, educational and governmental access) programming, thereby increasing financial resources available for this essential public service. The current funding structure is limited to revenue generated from franchise fees for conventional cable television subscriptions. With more customers “cutting the cord” on their cable subscriptions, funding for PEG and local community television has dwindled.

As local print publications continue to shutter their doors, the ability for the public to stay informed and connected in their communities via local media coverage online is paramount. Coverage of hyperlocal news and information is vital to communities – it’s a need that cannot be met by area affiliates of major news networks, which generally cover regional, state and national news.

The City of Plymouth is fortunate to be a member of the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission – under which member cities receive quality local coverage of community events, local news, high school sports, city council meetings, and other pertinent community programming.

However, not all cities in Minnesota have this same level of community coverage – which is why the Equal Access to Broadband Act is so vital. It’s imperative that all cities in Minnesota be afforded the authority to negotiate franchise agreements with broadband providers, so as to provide resources for and access to the hyperlocal programming that is essential to maintaining an informed and civically engaged community. Thank you for your consideration of SF 2045/HF 974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffry Wosje'.

Jeffry Wosje
Mayor of Plymouth





12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway
Maple Grove, MN 55369-7064

763-494-6000
maplegrovern.gov

March 19, 2025

Dear Members of the Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee:

RE: SF 2045/HF 974 - Equal Access to Broadband Act

The City of Maple Grove is pleased to support SF 204/HF 974, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. This legislation will allow cities throughout the state of Minnesota to ensure their residents will have equal access to the same quality of broadband service no matter what neighborhood they live in.

We know local franchising works. When cable television was an emerging technology, the state of Minnesota enacted the 1973 Minnesota Cable Act authorizing local franchising of cable systems. When the City of Maple Grove authorized its first cable franchise, it required that every neighborhood be served over a reasonable period of time. Through local franchising, the franchised cable operator has been required to provide the same quality of cable service to all residents in the city. However, local franchising applies only to cable companies and not to phone or broadband-only companies.

Broadband is provided by cable, phone, and broadband-only companies. SF 2045/HF 974 would modernize local franchising to allow local franchising of broadband provided by all of these companies. This will lead to more equitable deployment of broadband quality of service to all residents, greater consumer protections, and public benefits such as access television funding and digital training and opportunities for residents.

Again, thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Steffenson
Mayor



Minnesota Association of Community
Telecommunications Administrators

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future.

MACTA is comprised of member cities, Public-Education-Government (PEG) organizations, schools and industry supporters from around the state of Minnesota. For well over 40 years the organization has served as a voice and lobbying arm to speak on behalf of members on a variety of telecommunications issues including Cable Franchises, PEG requirements and operation, broadband and more.

SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Eric Strouse
President, MACTA

**CITY OF LINO LAKES
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 25-01**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MACTA EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC,
EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT (PEG)
PROGRAMMING/PUBLIC ACCESS FUNDING**

WHEREAS, community television programming allows community members to stay connected and entertained through public, education, and government (PEG) programming; and

WHEREAS, public television programming includes local community and nonprofit submissions, City Council and board and commission meetings, and community events; and

WHEREAS, public television programming has primarily been funded through franchise fees which allow cable providers to utilize the public right-of-way for private use; and

WHEREAS, with the recent consumer trend of moving from traditional cable providers to digital/video streaming services, the funds available for public television programming has decreased; and

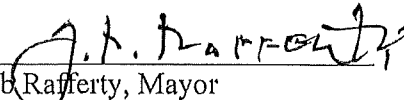
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) is a statewide organization of municipal and nonprofit staff that advocates for cities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, MACTA is launching a campaign to create legislative changes at the state and federal level that will respond to consumer changes and allow current practices to modernize in response to these shifts; and

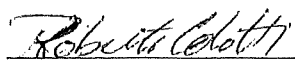
WHEREAS, MACTA is working with Minnesota cities to gain support for their legislative efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT: The Lino Lakes City Council offers their support to the Minnesota Associate of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) effort to modernize local access funding through legislative change.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Lino Lakes this 27th day of January 2025.


Rob Rafferty, Mayor

ATTEST:


Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

Hastings Community TV is writing in **support** of The Equal Access to Broadband Act (SF2045).

This bill will allow local governments to negotiate franchise agreements for use of the public rights-of-way by broadband providers. Minnesota communities have a 45-year history of franchising cable TV providers, and this bill will modernize legislation to continue the benefits of franchising for our residents, businesses, schools and non-profits. Local franchising is a proven way to ensure complete buildout provisions, no redlining or cherry picking, faster upload and download speeds, non-compliance provisions, local oversight of commercial users in streets and on public assets, and local customer service resolution.

In addition, this bill will modernize the funding structure of local community television. Hastings Community TV and community television stations across the state rely on cable TV franchise fees to support coverage of local government meetings, candidate and election programming, sports, news, business and chamber of commerce, education and health, community events and festivals, music, arts, and nonprofits that allow residents to engage in our community. This programming has become essential with the loss of local newspapers in many markets. While our programs are distributed on many digital platforms like YouTube, franchise fees are paid only on (decreasing) traditional cable TV service. Franchising broadband will level the playing field and provide ongoing funding to continue serving the needs of our community.

Please let me know if you need further information. Thank you for your work on behalf of our residents and our community!

Sincerely,

Mike Bremer
Executive Director
Hastings Community TV



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The mission of CTN Coon Rapids is to provide viewers with the best in local programming. We do this by being active in the community and by covering topics important to residents such as local news and information, sports and events. We produce 350-400 local programs and stories per year broadcast on cable TV and shared with our over 12,500 YouTube channel subscribers as well as other platforms.

I am writing in support of The Equal Access to Broadband Act SF 2045. The Equal Access to Broadband Act will allow local governments to negotiate franchise agreements for broadband providers' use of the public right-of-way. Minnesota communities have a 45-year history of franchising cable TV providers, and this bill will modernize legislation to continue the benefits of franchising for our residents, businesses, schools, and nonprofits. Local franchising is a proven way to ensure complete buildout provisions, no redlining or cherry picking, faster upload and download speeds, non-compliance provisions, local oversight of commercial users in streets and on public assets, and local customer service resolution.

In addition, SF 2045 will modernize the funding structure of local community television. Community television is a valuable service that provides a vital connection to our local communities and covers hyperlocal news and information not met by regional, state, or national media. It engages residents by providing neutral, unbiased coverage of public meetings, city services, and local elections. And it enriches lives by spotlighting high school sports, local concerts, and community events.

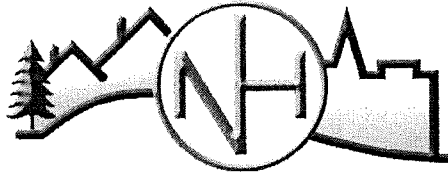
Unfortunately, many community television stations like CTN Coon Rapids are experiencing significant budget losses due to subscribers abandoning traditional cable services or "cord-cutting." Our station has experienced a decrease of more than 30% in cable franchise fees compared to 7 years ago. While we distribute our programming on multiple platforms, including cable TV, online streaming, and social media, only the cable operator is required to provide financial support, and only on their traditional cable TV service, not their streaming or internet services.

Please let us know if you need further information. Thank you for your work on behalf of our residents and our community!

Sincerely,



Eric Strouse
Station Manager
CTN – Coon Rapids
11215 Robinson Drive, Coon Rapids, MN 55433
Direct: 763-767-6526



March 19, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of New Hope is pleased to express its support for SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to update our local franchising laws to reflect the evolving communications landscape, as broadband represents the future of connectivity. SF 2045 will enable cities to franchise broadband services in a manner similar to how cable systems are currently franchised. In the past, cable franchising ensured that residents received consistent quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged around broadband, it is essential to refresh the law to allow for local franchising of broadband, aiming to guarantee that all residents in every city have equal access to the same high-quality broadband service.

As technology and methods of receiving information change, our franchising agreements must adapt accordingly. Currently, local franchising applies only to cable companies, leaving phone and broadband-only companies without similar regulations. SF 2045 would modernize local franchising, enhance consumer protections, and update the funding structure for local community television.

With an increasing number of residents turning to streaming services, traditional cable subscriptions are on the decline. Thus, modernizing the funding model for local community television has become critical. In New Hope, the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission/CCX Media provide our residents with access to important local coverage that fosters an informed and engaged community. CCX Media delivers content featuring local events, nonprofit activities, school sports and academic programs, local businesses, elections and government proceedings at city, county and state levels. All programming that mainstream broadcast stations often overlook.

Thank you for considering the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

John Elder, Mayor

Keesee Bertholf, City Manager

CITY OF NEW HOPE

4401 Xylon Avenue North, New Hope, Minnesota 55428-4898 | newhopemn.gov | 763-531-5100

March 20, 2025

Senator Aric Putnam
Chair, Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of Minneapolis is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. This legislation will allow cities throughout the state of Minnesota to ensure their residents will have equal access to the same quality of broadband service no matter what neighborhood they live in.

We know local franchising works. When cable television was an emerging technology, the state of Minnesota enacted the 1973 Minnesota Cable Act authorizing local franchising of cable systems. When the City of Minneapolis authorized its first cable franchise, it required that every ward be served over a reasonable period of time. Through local franchising, the franchised cable operator has been required to provide the same quality of cable service to all residents in the City. However, local franchising applies only to cable companies and not to phone or broadband-only companies.

Broadband is provided by cable, phone, and broadband-only companies. SF 2045 would modernize local franchising to allow local franchising of broadband provided by all of these companies. This will lead to more equitable deployment of broadband quality of service to all residents, greater consumer protections, and public benefits such as access television funding and digital training and opportunities for residents.

Again, thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Katie Topinka
Director, Intergovernmental Relations

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ANOKA
CITY OF CIRCLE PINES**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MACTA EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE PUBLIC,
EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT (PEG) PROGRAMMING/PUBLIC ACCESS
FUNDING.**

WHEREAS, community television programming allows community members to stay connected and entertained through public, education, and government (PEG) programming;

WHEREAS, public television programming includes local community and nonprofit submissions, City Council and board and commission meetings, and community events;

WHEREAS, public television programming has primarily been funded through franchise fees, which allow cable providers to utilize the public right-of-way for private use;

WHEREAS, with the recent consumer trend of moving from traditional cable providers to digital/video streaming services, the funds available for public television programming have decreased;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) is a statewide organization of municipal and nonprofit staff that advocates for cities and their residents;

WHEREAS, MACTA is launching a campaign to create legislative changes at the state and Federal level that will respond to consumer changes and allow current practices to modernize in response to these shifts;

WHEREAS, MACTA is working with Minnesota cities to gain support for their legislative efforts;

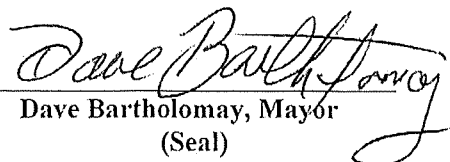
NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT: The City Council of Circle Pines offers its support to the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators (MACTA) effort to modernize local access funding through legislative change.

Adopted this 11th day of March 2025 by the City Council of the City of Circle Pines.

ATTEST:



Patrick Antonen, City Administrator



Dave Bartholomay, Mayor
(Seal)



The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

On behalf of the member cities of the Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (Andover, Anoka, Champlin, Ramsey) I am writing in support of The Equal Access to Broadband Act SF 2045. The Equal Access to Broadband Act will allow this commission, and cities across the state, negotiate franchise agreements for use of the public rights-of-way by broadband providers, just as these local governments have done with cable tv providers. Minnesota communities have a 44-year successful history of franchising cable TV providers in the public right-of-way. The four member cities of this commission banded together in 1981 to form QCTV through a collaboration as they knew they could accomplish more together than independently. This bill will modernize legislation to continue the benefits of franchising for our residents, businesses, schools and non-profits.

Local franchising is a proven way to ensure complete buildout provisions, no redlining or cherry picking, faster upload and download speeds, non-compliance provisions, local oversight of commercial users in streets and on public assets, and local customer service resolution.

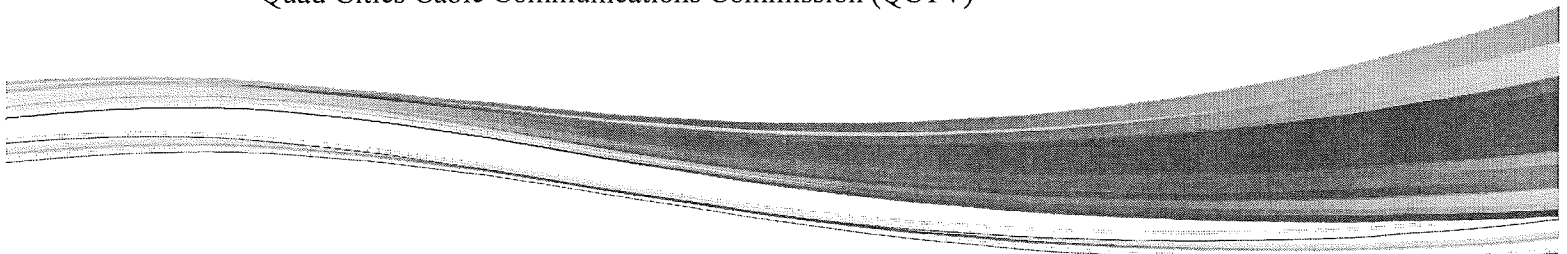
In addition, SF 2045 will modernize the funding structure of local Community Television stations like QCTV. Community television stations across the state rely on cable TV franchise fees and PEG fees to support coverage of government meetings, candidate and election programming, sports, news, business and chamber of commerce, education and health, community events and festivals, music, arts, nonprofits that allow residents to engage in our community. Franchising broadband will level the playing field and provide ongoing funding to continue serving the needs of our community.

Please let us know if you need further information. Thank you for your work on behalf of our residents and our community!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen A. George'.

Karen A. George
Executive Director
Quad Cities Cable Communications Commission (QCTV)





CITY OF
SAVAGE
MINNESOTA

CITY HALL
6000 McColl Drive
Savage, MN 55378

952-882-2660
952-882-2656
comments@cityofsavage.com
cityofsavage.com

The Honorable Aric Putnam
Chair, Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2045 – Equal Access to Broadband Act

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

The City of Savage is pleased to support SF 2045, the Equal Access to Broadband Act. It is time to refresh the local franchising laws to recognize the changing communications landscape and that broadband is the future. SF 2045 will allow cities to franchise broadband similarly to how cable systems are currently franchised. Cable franchising resulted in residents having the same quality of cable television service. As technologies have converged into broadband, the law needs to be refreshed to allow local franchising of broadband with the goal of ensuring that all residents of every city have equal access to the same quality of broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration of the Equal Access to Broadband Act. We urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Christine L. Kelly
Mayor