



P.O. Box 218
Madelia, Minnesota 56062
651-291-7311
www.mnta.org

March 19, 2025

Senator Matt D. Klein, Chair
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Gary Dahms, Ranking Minority Member
2219 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Ref: SF 2224

Via e-mail

Chair Klein, Ranking Minority Member Dahms and members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee, I am writing in support of SF 2224.

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance (MTA) is a trade association that advocates and represents the interests of more than 40 small, medium and large companies that provide advanced telecommunications services such as voice, data, wireless, video, and high-speed Internet access to Minnesota's metropolitan and rural communities. Our members serve some of the most remote areas of the state as well as the most densely populated areas.

This bill is part of a larger effort to modernize over 100 year old telephone regulation that has not kept up with changes in technology. Current Minnesota Statutes and Public Utilities Commission rules are built for a time when landline telephone service was a monopoly, which hasn't existed for almost 30 years. It doesn't make sense to require a telephone company to maintain an old network when consumers have multiple other options for service built on modern advanced technology.

MTA members are regulated more heavily than our competitors. Landline telephone service provided by a traditional telephone company is regulated by the Department of Commerce, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of Attorney General, and the FCC. That same service, provided by our competitors, is only regulated by the FCC. That doesn't even make sense.

Every state that borders Minnesota, and many more, has already deregulated landline telephone service. Proof that fairness in telecom regulation does not come at the expense of consumers. Minnesota can get out of the way of telecommunications advancement and still ensure consumers have access to quality, reliable voice services.

Please support SF 2224 and take this first step in modernizing rules and regulations that are out of date and out of touch with today's technology.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent J. Christensen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brent J. Christensen
President/CEO