

Dana Bailey
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Dear Chairman Klein & Members of the Committee:

Lumen Technologies is grateful for Chairman Klein's leadership and common-sense approach to supporting telecom policy modernization in his committee, and in the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Omnibus. This policy will help consumers and businesses across the state transition to fiber to the home, widely considered the best technology available to dial 911 and reach family and friends.

The collaboration encouraged by the Chair and fostered by Senator Rasmusson, has been an iterative approach with all stakeholders. The result is a well-balanced and thoughtful policy created by industry, regulators, and stakeholders to get Minnesotans transitioned from less reliable, unsupported technology to fiber-to-the-home VoIP, and potentially other technologies with approval from the Public Utilities Commission.

The Telecom Modernization policy in the Omnibus Commerce and Consumer Protection Bill (DE, A-6) is the product of the open and transparent process led by Senator Rasmusson to achieve a thoughtful transition from the plain old telephone (POTS) to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) where fiber to the home is available and affordable. The commission process set forth in the policy crafted by the Senator helps ensure no Minnesotan is left behind.

With over 8 million voice subscribers in Minnesota and just 1.9 % still relying on copper wires to call 911 and reach loved ones. POTS has become a less reliable, more difficult to repair technology. Copper cable has been the target of an unprecedented volume of theft reaching a catastrophic level at the end of 2024. Providers like Lumen struggle to maintain and find supplies to repair and replace these copper wires. This policy acknowledges it's time to transition to newer more reliable fiber services where Lumen technologies and many other providers have been investing in for over a decade.

Minnesota's broadband policy has already helped transition millions of Minnesotans to broadband. In 2024 alone, Minnesota Telecom Alliance members invested over \$300M building fiber to their customers. Modernizing how copper wires get regulated in the state is a critical step to align policy and the kinds of investments all Minnesotans want to see and experience across the state. Lumen is proud to support the (DE, A-6) in the Omnibus Commerce and Consumer Protection Bill.

Sincerely,

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